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Guardia

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Serb link

IR Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, was warned by MI6 that the

Tory party was secretly receiving funds from Serb

sources at the height of the war in the former Yugoslavia, the Guardian has learned.

MI6 alerted Sir Robin as the senior official responsible for

the security and intelligence

agencies, according to impec-cable Whitehall sources. It is

understood Sir Robin passed the warning to the prime min-

The revelation came as

ministers came under chal-lenge from Labour over the

sources of Tory funding, in the wake of yesterday's Ob-server report about the al-leged MI6 role of Harold Ellet-son, Conservative MP for Blackpool North since 1992.

The Opposition's campaign spokesman, Brian Wilson MP, has written to the parlia-

mentary ombudsman, Sir Gordon Downey, seeking an inquiry into the Serbian fund-ing allegations. The implica-tions of the affair transcend

iomestic politics because of charges — not least in the United States — that British foreign policy during the war

was biased in Serbia's favour. The Guardian's sources dis-

count reports earlier in the year that MI6 reported the

rectly to the Prime Minister.

It is believed that MI6 was alerted to the donations by

Mr Elletson after one of his

many visits to the former

ister, John Major.

Richard Norton-Taylor and Michael White

The rise of a counter counter-culture



Media is the BBC making acrisis out of its drama department?

Bomb puts Ulster on brink Cabinet chief of

Fears of return to tit-for-tat killing

land was on a knife-edge last night as it wait-ed to learn if the der of a leading republican signalled the end of the loyalist paramilitaries' two-year ceasefire and the resumption of tit-for-tat killing.

Loyalist and nationalist pol-iticians both claimed that the attack on Eddie Copeland, who suffered leg wounds when a booby-trap bomb went off under his car, was in response to the IRA's gun attack on RUC officers guarding a Unionist politician and his wife who were visiting their critically ill child in Belfast's Royal Hospital for Sick Children on Friday evening.

There was no immediate claim for planting the device. which blew a 12-inch square hole in the floor beneath the driver's seat of Mr Copeland's Honda Civic, but caused little other damage. However, loy-alist sources indicated their belief that it was the work of either the Ulster Volunteer Force or the Ulster Freedom

Mr Copeland was said to be in a stable condition in hospital last night. A neighbour call themselves the dei who was quickly on the scene said Mr Copeland was conscious and in agony after the

In October 1993 he was wounded when a soldier opened fire on mourners out-side the home of Thomas Begley, the IRA man killed by his own bomb along with nine Protestants.

Loyalists have repeatedly warned that their paramili-tary ceasefire could not be sustained against repeated IRA attacks. David Adams of the Ulster Democratic Party. which is linked with the illegal UFF, said yesterday: "Loy-alists have withstood provocation since Canary Wharf in February, and with that provocation continuing it seemed only a matter of time before there was a response.

David Brvine of the Progressive Unionist Party, which has links with the UVF, warned: 'I think it is potentially the beginning of a

AND WE DESCRIPT

MAR STREET, CORP.

Mr Ervine pledged: "I will attempt to exert whatever influence I can to say it's wrong - for the simple reason that we, the loyalists, have dressed the fears over the last two years of the Catholic, nationalist community. The IRA have singularly failed to do that and are tearing them-selves apart at the thought of



for West Belfast, said the attack put "massive" pres-sure on the IRA to renew its reprisal for the shooting in the children's hospital which occurred in my constituency on Friday night," he said. Dr Hendron added that if

loyalists did return to violence, the IRA must share the blame. "If innocent Catholics or innocent people are killed out on the streets there, the IRA cannot throw up its hands and say: 'It was nothing to do with us'... the Provos cannot walk away and "All of these events put

massive pressure on the Republican leadership to call a credible ceasefire."

The Ulster Unionist Party's security spokesman, Ken Ma-ginnis, said the Stormont allparty talks would probably collapse if the loyalists went back to war. "If both traditions are involved in the vio-lence, then I believe that the talks at the present level and within the present structure are not sustainable," he said.

The Democratic Unionist spokesman, Sammy Wilson, said Northern Ireland Was reaping the benefits of a gov-ernment which had let people think violence would get people what they wanted.

The bombing came just a

few hours after hundreds of people gathered in Belfast city centre for a peace rally. Speaking on Irish radio be-fore the bombing, Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams refused to condemn the IRA attack at

The Northern Ireland minister, Malcolm Moss, said he utterly condemned yesterday's bomb attempt. "There is no difference between the people who used guns in a children's hospital on Friday night and those who planted the device in a man's car."



Unionists fall out over Goldsmith 'deal'

Michael White Political Editor

THE nine Ulster Unionist MPs whose votes may decide John Major's fate were last night engaged in a fierce internal row over allegations that their party leader, David Trimble, had negotiated a secret deal with the billionaire leader of the Referendum Party, Sir James

All that is officially expected from an announce-ment due in Belfast today is that the Ulster Unionists' solitary MEP, James Nicholson, will switch his loyalty from the Tory-orientated European spend far less on elections

thanks to a defection to the

Gaullista. Mr Trimble's colleagues, who are historically as wary of the EU as governments in Dublin are enthusiastic, would not mind that But weekend reports in Eurosceptic newspapers in London gleefully suggested a far more ambitious link with Sir James gaining influence at Westminster via the Union-ists to further his attack on

The Unionists are a rela-

Peoples Party to Sir James's than do British Tories. But helps topple Mr Major Europe of Nations group well-placed Unionists hinted which is in danger of losing group status in Strasbourg war chest might be a factor. helps topple Mr Major "Unionists may have to take part of the blame," one said last night. "What price will be Mr Trimble, a highly-astute was not politician.

> Sir James, an Anglo-French citizen, French MEP and global financier, is an exotic creature by Unionist

Suspicious MPs and activists were fearful last night that he might upset their delicate balancing act, seeking to extract concessions from Mr Major's minority government and preparing to do the same to a Blair-led administration.

asked from us? There's no such thing as a free lunch,"

aid another.
In a sharply-worded state ment which will have the support of angry colleagues, the Unionists' veteran deputy "Whatever changes or politi-cal re-alignments occur in the Strasbourg parliament, they have no impact on the role of the Ulster Unionist Parlia-mentary party at Westminster."

Yugoslavia. Mr Elletson, aged 36, an ex-Etonian and unpaid parlismentary private secretary to the Northern Ireland Minis-ter, Michael Ancram, is

understood allegedly to have been approached by MI6 as an unofficial, but approved. agent before he entered the Commons. He would have been useful to MI6 as a Russian speaker and a trade con-Turn to page 2, column 1

The Guardian International & The Observer Briefcase



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Old pro Shilton keeps a clean sheet on 1000th league appearance



Ever the stylist: 47-year-old

Richard Williams

IT WAS probably the eastest day of his professional life. On his 1,000th appearance in English league foot-ball, an unprecedented feat unlikely to be matched, 47year-old Peter Shilton was called to produce not a single one of the flying fingertip saves or prodigious leaping catches with which he made his reputation as a teenaged prodigy.

In a battle between clubs at the bottom of the Third Division. Shilton kept Brighton and Hove Albion dozen overhit long balls, tional career under Ram-

gathered a couple of headed | sey, Revie, Greenwood and | ters to lengthen his arms. backpasses, caught an inswinging corner and punched away another. For the rest, he trotted back and forth across his

penalty area, periodically touching his toes, keeping himself alert, maintaining the good professional habits which began a lifetime ago, when Harold Wilson was prime minister and weekends began with Ready Steady Go.
It may have been a long

way from the floodlit nights on which he won two European Cup winners' medals with Brian Clough's at bay to help earn a 2-0 Nottingham Forest, or the win for his club, Leyton 125 England caps amassed Orient. He fielded half a during a 19-year interna-

Robson, but there were fanfares before the kick-off and, at the end, an ovation from the 7,944 speciators, almost double the usual number at Brisbane Road. "Twe played to bigger au-diences," Shilton said after-wards, "but the atmo-

sphere here today was fantastic. I've been very pleasantly surprised by the amount of interest in the game. I wasn't expecting anything like this." Shilton earned £8 a week when he joined Leicester

City as a 16-year-old under-

marked him out from his rivals, and before long he had replaced Banks with both club and country. His dedication to fitness training and the constant refinement of technique gave him his extraordinary longevity, and in the run-up to yesterday's celebrations he was keen to promote the notion that he might still bave a future as a Premier League performer. His life outside football

has been notoriously bumpy, plagued by per-sonal and financial probstudy to the great Gordon Banks. His obsession with the craft of goalkeeping, en-couraged by a mother who hung him from the bannislems, and his first venture into football management with Plymouth Argyle. ended in dismissal two



Teenaged Shilton on debut

ment and Letters 8

sword 15: Weather 16:

Inside

Britain	
Taxpayers gavertis	
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doubling state aid to almost \$250 after	
privatisation.	d.
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World News New Gingnatiwas fighths to this nelitical life last night ofter he had acquired misleading

Gonsumer spending will be the driving force behind grawth next year and if could mean that ... the economy could expand even tester.

Windestorated their first deleaf in 28 games share dely crushed 5-1 in Aston Vala wiremove so fourth place safer five successive wins

Radio 16; TV 16

Rome's farewell to secular saint of screen

As the actor Marcello Mastroianni gets a funeral not unlike that of Julius Caesar, Sofia Loren mourns his death as the most painful since that of her mother



John Hooper

day before Christmas, in pagan city of Rome that is the capital of Christendom, shops were open and full as their owners strove to turn a few extra mil-

lion lira before the big day. Above the bustle, on the Capitoline Hill, in a 12th century building which is now the town hall, an actor who embodied the city's rarely noted secular aspect lay in a coffin smothered with

poinsettias.
Reflexively, many who
came to pay their last respects
to Marcello Mastroianni
crossed themselves as they entered the room. Yet there was not a cross nor a candle, not a cleric or cassock to be seen near his bier. In Paris, where he died,

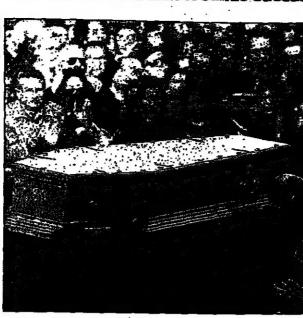
Mastroianni was bid farewell with a church service, reportedly held at the insistence of his former lover, Catherine Deneuve, who is a devout Roman Catholic. But in Rome. his progress to the grave was kept rigorously free of the whiff of incense.

At 11.30, half a dozen council employees in blue suits brought out his coffin to applause from a crowd of several thousand in the square below. They laid the simple oak casket on a red carpet in front of the Palazzo Senatorio.

Some minutes later, Solia Loren arrived, hand in hand with her son. She took her place pext to the dead man's wife, Flora Carabella, among the friends, relatives and colleagues to one side of the

La Loren played opposite the actor in a dozen films and there was endless speculation, ssly denied, about whether their many on-screen affairs went further than the set. Events since his death will only tend to revive it. Her immediate reaction to Mastroianni's death had been to say that "this is the most pain I have felt since the death

of my mother Yesterday, she looked gaunt. On several occasions, she turned away from the coffin with her lips wide apart, as if gulping in air.



The Rome crowd applands as Mastroianni's coffin passes. Right: Sofia Loren (left), who played opposite him in doze of films, his wife Flore Carabella and daughter Barbara at the funeral

Instead of a Mass, what the actor got was something not the world, saddened by his unlike the funeral service in Julius Caesar. One by one, people who had known him came and stood by his coffin and spoke briefly of their feelings about him.

The deputy prime minister,
Walter Veltroni, remarked

death, Mastrolanni was just a beam of light encountered in a dark room. Yet millions of people could recognize his voice, his silhouette, his gait — that of a man who did not wish to be infected by the world's foolish haste". His dresser, Angela Inzi-mani, recalled his love of a

good meal and his fondness for telling funny stories. The film director Mario Monicelli said Mastroianni had achieved so much without ever becoming self-important. This has been stressed over and over again in articles writ-Mastroianni may have been a reserved man — his dresser

never addressed him with the familiar "tu" — yet he did not let his fame go to his head. Leaning on one of the crush barriers placed around the square, Maria Felice Abbatecola said she had got to know him because he was a regular ner of a bar near the dubbing studios in Porta Latina. He found out she came

place and was forever buying her coffees. "He never gave himself airs. He always remained what he was".

When the speeches were over, the council's employees picked up the coffin, by now unadorned, and took it to a hearse for its journey to a private ceremony at the Verano emetery. It was truly the unshowy departure of an un-

showy man. The Rome that made him famous begins a quarter of an hour's stroll away at the Fontana di Trevi. Commissione tana di Trevi. Commissioned by a pope yet exuberantiy hea-then in conception and execu-tion, it is among the monu-ments that best exemplifies the contradictions of the city. It was here, in Fellint's La Doice Vita, that Mastrolanni memorably waded into the water to dance with a black-

gowned Anita Ekberg in one of the many scenes in which he played that were de-nounced by the Church. After the actor's death, a banner was tied to the rallings around the fountain bearing the words "Rome for Marcello" Then came a poster for one of his films. By yesterday, this little makeshift shrine had at-tracted a pile of bouquets.

Shortly before 1.30 p.m., a leeply tanned man in a camel hair coat strode up to the rail-

ings and delivered his own

farewell to the actor by quietly singing Arrivederci Roma. He was, he sold, a Neapolitan singer, Vincenzo

Gagliotti. Whenever I find myself in front of a microphone, I try to give my soul to what the writer of the song meant — to convey the emotions he was

describing.
"Mastrolanni could do that
on film. It's something that's inside - in the blood," he said, before walking on. What happened next would no doubt have delighted

Mastrolanni. There was a man selling trashy mementos from one of the stalls round the fountain who wanted to know what we had been talking about.

When I explained, he said, with the air of someone who could confide in a foreigner what he dared not admit to his fellow-Italians, "This Marcello Mastroanni . . . Who was

He was in his early 30s per-baps — a lot too young to have been around when La Dolce

Vita was released.

"Well," I said, "Mastrolanni
was a very famous actor and
the most famous scene he ever
played was right here, on

A look of immense relief came over his face. "Oh, right," he said. "The one what not himself wet."

MI6 alerted cabinet chief to secret Serb funds for Tories

continued from page 1 sultant specialising in East-

ern Europe.
Mis is believed to have been given approval by Mr Major to continue using Mr Elletson as a secret contact after he be-came an MP. Yesterday Mr El-letson said the Observer claim was "schoolboy fiction".

As usual with funding alle sations, Conservative Central Office refused to comment. But Labour's Mr Wilson said: "The crucial question is whether the Tories accepted Serbian money in the run-up to the last election. We must know who received it, how much and what the Serber 1999. much and what the Serbs gained in return."

abour is keen to highligh the Government's special problem: the transformation of an acknowledged £19 mil-lion overdraft after the 1992 general election into an election fund that may spend £20 million this time.

"The Serbs were at this time party to a conflict which drew in British servicemen and women, and they and their families will be ex-tremely interested to learn why the Tories were taking these actions in secret," Mr Wilson said. Neither Labour nor the Liberal Democrats ac-cept donations from foreign-ers, and Labour declares all

donations over £5,000. Shortly before the 1992 general election, Serbs close to the regime secretly sent more than £96,000 to Britain and some of it is understood to have found its way into Conservative Party funds.

Mr Major made no direct comment on the affair when

interviewed yesterday on GMTV. But he did urge Labour to "step out of the gut-ter" so that a proper debate could take place on policy. He urged Tony Blair to "say to his spin doctors, "Stop run-ning around with all sorts of daft stories, day after day. Stop trying to tilt the news-

Hong Kong shadow legislature

Woman with a mission for Beijing

Andrew Higgin In Hong Kong

N THE twilight of empire, a shift in the rival politi-cal fortunes of an elderly Englishwoman from Newcastle and a veteran Chinese nationalist comes as no su-

Startling, though, is the result. A Beijing shake-up of Hong Kong's political elite has boosted a Tynesider, aged 83, who barely speaks Chi-nese and banished a prominent local populist who never learnt English.

The curious face of Hong Kong's post-colonial panjan-drums came into sharp focus at the weekend with the formation of a 50-member shadow legislature to replace the elected colonial assembly.

The process — conducted across the border in Shenz-



Elsle Tu: Britain was never

"bizarre farce" by the governor, Chris Patten, but as a "great day for Hong Kong" by his shipping tycoon successor, Tung Chee hwa.

Among those selected to sit

that "for millions of people in

on a new pro-China legisla-ture is Elsie Tu, a former missionary who came to Hong Kong in 1951 as Elsie Elliot. Absent from the new assembly is Szeto Wah, a teachers' trade union leader and dogged master of Hong Kong street politics.

In September 1995, Mr Szeto ran against Mrs Tu in the district of Kowloon East. A populist who has long spoken out for both democracy and Chi-nese nationalism, he got than Mrs To. On Saturday, she had her revenge. In a Communist Party meeting hall across the bor-

der, Mrs Tu secured 252 votes from a handpicked committee of 400 tycoons and pro-China figures, to win a place as a post-colonial lawmaker. Nine other losers from 1995 also won on Saturday.

"This was not an election but a joke. This is communist-style democracy," Mr Szeto scoffed. "Last year, more than 50,000 people voted (in East Kowloon). I won and she lost. She says it was not fair. Now 400 people decide everything."

The legislative council

elected in 1995 was supposed to sit for four years. But China has always said this could not be allowed to hap-pen, as it was voted in under democratic reforms introduced by Mr Patten without



Hong Kong marchers protest against the pro-China shadow assembly PHOTOGRAPH ANATONON

In the 1960s, Mrs Tu was an outspoken champion of elec-tions. She lobbied MPs in London and came to be regarded as something of a subversive in Hong Kong. Today, though still involved in community work, she sees no contradiction between her role as champion of Hong Kong's poor and her new posi tion on Beijing-controlled committees stacked with millionaire magnates.

London's current enthusiasm for democracy, she says, is merely a ploy to prolong colonial influence.

He says Mrs Tu and the Communist Party share a preference for colonial-style "Britain was never interested in democracy before. What makes me angry is they would not allow us to have a paternalism.
"She acts like a goddess single elected seat until they knew China was going to take over. Then they jumped straight in with both feet."

Mr Szeto seems an unlikely stooge for British imperialism.

She wanted to help people but when people started helping themselves they no longer needed her and she got

More bewildering than enchanting

Reviews

Peter Pas Watermili Theatre, Newbury; Number Theatre, Southempton

HERE are a number of things you can do with Peter Pan. You can play it as a rich, theatrical tapes-try of childhood imagination, brimming with magic and fun. You can present it along traditional pantomine lines, with good fairy Wendy rescu-ing the Lost Boys from the clutches of evil Captain Hook can sit back and poke gentle fun at the Edwardian twee story. Dilys Hamlett's brisk but

uneven production seems to want to do all of these things, and ends up doing none of them with any great convic-tion. The flight to Never Never Land is ingeniously handled, and there are a few other moments of inventive theatricality, but these are interspersed with a welter of thoroughly unsophisticated visual techniques that undermine any sense of sustained magic. Christopher Holt's Captain Hook looks villainous enough, but rarely acts it, while it's never clear how seriously we are meant to take the sometimes irritatrate the sometimes irritatingly hectoring Wendy (Sally Ann Burnett) and her Lost Boys, who look like a cross between something out of Lord of the Flies and a Famous Five spoof. And despite Samantha Seager's attempts to the the disparate elements together in an engretic pertogether in an energetic per-formance as Peter, I came out more obviously bewildered port with the audience.

than enchanted. Worse, the young audience is given only one perfunctory opportunity to include its evident desire

to participate.
The more opulent version of the same story at the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton. capitalises on Juliet Shillingford's bold and colourful design to create a part-spectacu-lar, part-humorous world of childhood fantasy, in which danger is easily surmountable, and the villains are either ineffectual, softhearted, or both.

But while the approach is more consistent and less con-You can get all dewy-eyed fused than at Newbury, it about Peter's appealing takes director Patrick Sandrefusal to grow up. Or you ford some time to make it work. He lingers far too long fun at the Edwardian tweet in the Darlings' house in a ness of Barrie's original soggy opening scene that goes nowhere. And even when he gets to Never Never Land, everything initially looks a whole lot better than it sounds. The narrative is sometimes less clear than it might be, and the fixed-grin naivety of Peter and Wendy (Tony Casement and Caroline Trowbridge) comes over as forced and false. And throughout the first act, a sense of uncertainty militates against the ability of either cast or audience to relax and

late

- 7x:4

enjoy themselves.
It's only when the conflict between the children and pirates gathers momentum in Act Two that the show really lifts of Granville Saxton's splendid spoof-villain act has been an annual fixture at the Nuffield for years, and his performance as Hook makes it abundantly clear why. With a mixture of over-stated empty menace, appealing daf-finess and amusing asides, he succeeds where others have failed in establishing a rap-nort with the cushing a

Changing names are products of our time

Kamal Ahmed

NE OF THE first was Katle, the fine up-standing housewife who thought Oxo was simply the best in the 1950s. Then there was Sid, the man everybody was hunting in the British Gas shares sale in the 1980s. More recently Nicole and Papa have revealed Renault's delights and Harry and Molly have sold the Safessay name. the Safeway name.
This weekend Lucy, Ju-

lie, Deidre and Mikey joined Katie et al in the battle for consumers' minds and wallets. WEA Records has

launched a newspaper cam-paign aimed at those last minute present buyers with the slogan "What can I get It chose a list of names and speech patterns that it

thought would appeal to readers in various sectors of the social spectrum. For Daily Mail readers the slo-Daily Mail readers the slogan chosen was "Oh lummocks? What can I get for
Lucy?", in the Sun the more
suggestive: "Gooer! What in the Sunday Times, and seemed more appropriate."

"Oooer!! What can I get for Mikey?" "Oh S**g!!! What can I get for Vicky?"...

"Oh Lummocks!! What can I get for Lucy?"

Who reads what? Name that campaign, product, newspaper and potential vampire

can I get for Mikey?". For "seeg", which appeared in the Mirror and the Guard-the Guardian? the Mirror and the Guard-ian Vicky was the name chosen. Deidre appeared in the Independent and Fred-die in the Daily Star. The series has renewed

interest among social analysts in why advertisers use certain names to sell their

"We wanted to use names of people who actually read the newspapers con-cerned," said Tom McGuin-ness, head of marketing with WEA who oversaw the campaign. "I know a Dei-dre and she reads the Indeproducts.

Why Lucy instead of Tabitha? Why Mikey instead

I knew a Tarquin who read

I knew a Tarquin who read

Only one of the name Lucy, appears in the top 20 most popular names for children in Britain. Advertisers know that choosing a name that is too popular can cause problems because it can swamp the adant's message. Alfrede Marcantonio, vice-chairman of the adver-tising agency Abbot Mead Vickers, said: "Often advertisers want a character that is a bit of a wally and they might use the name Rod-ney. If they wanted some-one more heroic they might

more boring women, I think the names Enid, Ger-trude or those favourities Sharon and Tracy would be a good choice."

Advertisers also have to

He frequently annoyed Hong Kong's colonial administra-

tion, organising strikes and orging the study of Chinese, rather than British, history.

He also enraged Betting by leading protests against the Tiananmen Square massacre.

be careful that the characbe careful that the charac-ters do not overshadow the message, called "vampir-ing" in the trade. Graham Hinton, of Bates Dorland, the creative agency behind the Harry and Molly advertisements for Safeway, said they had to name Harry after the press picked up on the non-

press picked up on the pop-ularity of the character. nlarity of the character.

"For Molly we first thought of Polly," said Mr. Hinton. "We wanted something that played on the film title When Harry Met Sally but Polly didn't work as well as Molly did."

As ever, television is likely to affect norty year's

likely to affect next year's most popular names chart. When Shannon became well-known as the star of the Australian soap Home and Away, the name climbed 22 places to 11th in the most popular girls' names. Watch Harry and Molly clamber up the

MORTGAGES

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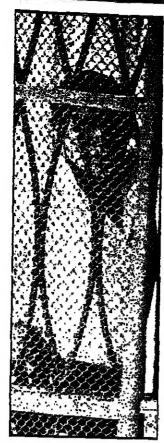
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O

Terrorist siege enters sixth day



Stant of the Party

Michantin



Tokyo backs hard line on Peru rebels

E Peruvian president won support from Japan and other countries yesterdayfor his refusal to concede any rebel demands or start talks until all the hostages held by the Tupac Amaru guerrillas inside the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima have

President Alberto Fuji mori's tough message, delivered in a nationally televised address, came as conditions inside the residence worsened after an all-night blackout. Notices, handwritten by hostages and stuck in a winthe president to restore elec-tricity, water and telephone

Mr Fujimori broke his about 20 rebels stormed a cocktail party at the residence last Tuesday night, with a terse statement in which he said there would be no talk of peace or accords until the threat of violence had been lifted.

He refused to release any of the rebels' jailed colleagues their main demand — but said the government was not contemplating military action

at present.
Only if the rebels freed all their approximately 340 hostages would the government consider negotiating, Mr Fuji-mort said. He denied that he was avoiding dialogue, and claimed credit for the release of 38 hostages on Friday.

With the telephones inside the residence cut off, the resignation of a previous mediatsadors, and the constant references of ex-hostages to the need for efficient negotia between the two sides

The Japanese prime minis-ter, Ryutaro Hashimoto, the nation." issued a statement backing Mr Fujimori's hard line, in an apparent attempt to quash reports of differences between the two governments over the

where we shift our demands "You can't talk about a from the safety of the hospeace accord while using terror as the main argument," he said. "They want Hashimoto said. "It is the Tu-



Photographs apparently smuggled out by freed hostages show captives crowded inside a room in the residence

pac Amaru Revolutionary | ous reference to the lives of | Mr Tudela spoke to a Lima | Carpa, said they had not ruled | Movement's turn to respond. | The rebels. In his address Mr | television station on Saturday | out laying down arms and becoming a political party. Mr Tudela spoke to a Lima | Carpa, said they had not ruled out laying down arms and becoming a political party. Mr Tudela spoke to a Lima | Carpa, said they had not ruled out laying down arms and becoming a political party. Mr Tudela spoke to a Lima | Carpa, said they had not ruled out laying down arms and becoming a political party. Mr Tudela spoke to a Lima | Carpa, said they had not ruled out laying down arms and becoming a political party. Mr Tudela spoke to a Lima | Carpa, said they had not ruled out laying down arms and becoming a political party. Mr Tudela spoke to a Lima | Carpa, said they had not ruled out laying down arms and becoming a political party. Mr Tudela spoke to a Lima | Carpa, said they had not ruled out laying down arms and becoming a political party. Mr Tudela spoke to a Lima | Carpa, said they had not ruled out laying down arms and becoming a political party. Mr Carpa said, however, that the

Victor Joy Way, the president of the Peruvian congress, said the government had rejected international offers of expert advice from the specialist forces who trav-elled to Peru when the crisis handling of the crisis.
"We think we are at a stage

surrender their weapons to a committee of guarantors.

Photographs apparently snuggled out of the besieged residence by freed hostages showed local personalities crammed together in rooms. standing, sitting or lying down. One showed a seriouslooking Peruvian foreign minister, Francisco Tudela, standing in his shirt sleeves

talkies. Claiming to be talking freely, he urged the govern-ment to "seriously consider" the rebel demands. He said he thought the Tupac Amaru group was prepared to enter a

"complete negotiation" based on points it had transmitted to the government in messages sent through released

During the same radio contact, the rebel leader, Nestor

rebels' condition for such a process to begin remained their firm demand that their members be freed from

prison. Mr Cerpa's message, alongside Mr Fujimori's statement, shows that the two sides remain far from a breakthrough to end the crisis, with the hostages facing the prospect of an uncomfortable Christmas in captivity.

State aid for privatised BR was doubled to £2bn

Labour claims new 'great train robbery' is costing the taxpayer more than ever

Kelth Harper Transport Editor

MAXPAYERS gave the privatised railway in-dustry a gravy train start by doubling state aid to almost £2 billion in the first 12 months after privatisation. government figures have

They show that British Rail received £1.035 billion from

Government started the selloff, the figure had jumped to

just under £2 billion. The figures, obtained by the Guardian from British Rail's annual accounts and the Department of Transport's rail budget for the next six years, suggest the handouts will reach a peak this year before dropping to £1.2 billion by

2000. But these figures are only estimates and will depend on how successfully the new prithe Treasury to run the rail-way in 1993-94, its last full vatised companies run pasyear. By 1994-95, when the senger services. The figures

ties who operate their own services but pay access charges to Railtrack, the privatised monopoly which took over responsibility for track and signalling from BR. Andrew Smith, Labour's

Andrew Smith, Labour's shadow transport secretary, said last night: "Privatised rail is costing the taxpayer more than ever. This will be another great train robbery unless the Government acts to make sure that money is invested in inverceing track invested in improving track, signalling, stock and

stations."
Mr Smith also pledged action by an incoming Labour government to force Railtrack

modernise the railways. The party would be announcing plans to strengthen regulation by making sure the rail regulator was answerable to

BR was heavily subsidised during the 1980s, but the Government began to reduce aid by ordering BR to restructure itself more efficiently. This led to the setting up of busi-ness units with individual targets, which started to make profits.

The most dramatic example

was InterCity, providing fast services between London and the main provincial centres. local passenger services are in BR's last year, operating sold off next year, state aid the main provincial centres.

include the grants received to deliver a maintenance and costs were reduced by 6 per will disappear. When the in-by a number of local authori-investment programme to cent, and the call on the pub-dustry is fully privatised by lic subsidy was cut by 20 per

cent. Capital investment, as opposed to running costs, reached £1.2 billion, much of which was work for the Channel Tunnel services which started in 1995.

Government sources last night maintained that the fig-ures were well documented, that Railtrack was committed to spending £10 billion over the next 10 years to improve the railway, and that it would have to raise private finance to do it.

The figures show that once

April, the rail franchise director will control the operation of the 25 privatised franchis with a grant from the

However, industry sources suggested that the Government was being over-optimis-tic in reducing the targets from next year because some train operators would not be able to maintain agreed

services.

Mr Smith said that Rail-track was a private monop-oly, subject to inadequate regulatory powers, and was failing to spend £2 billion of taxpayers' money as it should.

Labour still undecided on top tax

When I suggest to editor James Brown that

perhaps some of this is a little below the belt, he

suggests that a lot below the belt is no bad thing.

concedes "a lot below the belt", but a chuckle

Michael White Political Editor

ORDON Brown, the shadow chancellor, is under pressure from some Labour strategists to rule out a 50p top rate of tax was no meeting last Thursday - for fear it will become a and there was no discussion potent weapon in a Tory "Bombshell II" campaign focusing on Labour's tax plans. However, no such decision has yet been taken and week-

end reports that Tony Blair had enlisted his two senior colleagues, John Prescott and

reached a decision in con-

clave on Thursday.
Mr Cook said: The story is as real as Santa Claus. There of tax." Mr Prescott said: There was no talk about

Labour does, though, face vital choices on taxes. Some Blair advisers believe imposition of the tax on incomes above £100,000, as the Liberal Robin Cook, to persuade Mr Democrats propose, would doubled while trumpeting would inherit will brown to abandon the option only yield the Treasury £1 cuts in the standard rate. Mr some MPs argue.

were categorically denied by billion a year — far less than both shadow ministers yester. Ip on standard rate. Yet it day — along with suggestions would allow Brian Mawhinthat the so-called big four had ney's campaigns team to run scare stories.

"You can hear them saying '£100,000 today, £50,000 tomor-row' can't you?" a well-placed MP said last night.
Mr Brown is already com-

mitted to a lower starting rate, 15p initially when poss-ible. But he is keeping other options open, covering corpo-rate, indirect and other tax rates as well as national insurance contributions which the Tories have almost

must be pragmatic, dependent on the "fairness in taxation" pledge and the tougher calcu-lation on whether the money raised would be worth the

"Whatever we promise we

tion day, when the state of the economy a Blair cabinet would inherit will be clearer,

Printing company founder to be chairman of Guardian group HE new non-executive chairman of Guardian

Media Group will be Robert Gavron. He succeeds Harry Roche, who retires as chairman on January 10, 1997. Mr Gavron's business ex-perience has been built around the St Ives Group, Britain's leading printing "Whatever we promise "
in 1964, and chaired until
another senior MP said
yesterday.

"whatever we promise "
in 1964, and chaired until
1993. He is the chairman
and proprietor of the Folio
Society. a director of the Royal Opera House and

Royal Ballet, and a trustee of the National Gallery. The appointment was made by the Scott Trust, owners of the Guardian Media Group. The trust's chairman, Hugo Young, said yesterday: "The trust is delighted Bob Gavron has agreed to take the chair-manship of GMG. His great experience equips him per-fectly to lead both sides of our business: the magazines, regional papers, broadcasting and publish-

leading printing company

while sorry to say farewell to Harry Roche . . is delighted to welcome someone of the qualities and experience of Bob Gavron." Mr Gavron said: "I feel greatly honoured to be ining companies, together with the liberal newspapers they exist to support."

Mr Gavron will join the Scott Trust.

Jim Markwick, chief ex- dence for the long-term future."



Robert Gavron: founded

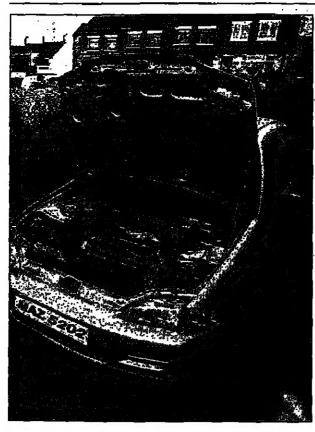
TOTTENHAM CAT ED WI KINGS RD SWI TUNSGATE COLLDFORD

EEALS

WINTER SALE

STARTS FRIDAY 27TH DEC

Sam Wollaston joins the Loaded roadshow G2 page 8



Protestant paramilitaries answered the IRA attack at a children's hospital with a small bomb in the Ardoyne, targeting a nationalist leader. It reverberated across the province. David Sharrock on the spectre of a new spiral of violence



The army on patrol in the Ardoyne after a leading republican, Eddie Copeland, was injured by a bomb placed under his car (top left)

Loyalists snap after hospital attack

HE sound of the pa-tience of loyalist paramilitaries finally snapping was a sharp explosion in a north Belfast street yesterday which rever-berated across Northern

"What did they expect? It couldn't have gone for ever, you know," was the response of one senior loyalist to the under-car bomb which intured the leading republican. Eddie Copeland, outside his mother's house in the nationalist Ardovne

"I hope we're not back in the whole spiral again but what did people really expect after going into a children's hospital. In my view, and I

one of those moments of hor-ror which occasionally punc-tuate Northern Ireland's litany of killing. Three people were killed and seven injured when gunmen burst into Protestant church in South Armagh and opened fire on

That the Friday evening attack by the IRA inside Belfast's Royal Hospital for Sick Children, in which an RUC of-ficer was injured, is being compared to Darkley gives some measure of the mood of the loyalist paramilitaries at the close of a year which ha seen numerous IRA attacks some of them successful. others thwarted - but no response from them.

believed to have been the ies in mid-Ulster. But the leaderships of both

What did the IRA expect? It couldn't have gone for ever, you know'

the main organisations in Belfast denied responsibility and the Ulster Volunteer Force expelled three members. That action showed that in spite of the pressure to taxi-driver, Michael McGol-| bombed Canary Wharf in cen-| adviser to the Democratic

alist leaders have held back.
At first it seemed the task would be lightened if the IRA confined its violence to Eng-land. But with each attack, and especially after the devastation of the centre of Man

chester, the pressure grew. When Thiepval Barracks the army's Northern Ireland headquarters, were given the no-warning bombs treatment and a soldier was killed, many thought that the end had finally come.

But almost miraculously the loyalist paramilitaries held their ceasefire and allowed their politicians to reap a public relations coup. But the attack at the children's hospital was the final

drick, during the week of tral London in February, loy- Unionist leader, Ian Paisley, Drumcree in July is widely alist leaders have held back. and a participant in the allparty Stormont talks, was vis-iting his desperately sick son, Andrew, in intensive care with his wife Dians.

The IRA later claimed that he was not the target but that its members were trying to kill Mr Dodds's police guards. If anything, this claim deep-ened the sense of disgust felt throughout the community. The IRA's opportunism shat-tered the words of peace spoken by Sinn Fein.

The most pressing question posed by yesterday's attack is whether or not Northern Ireland will be dragged back into the old chain of tit-for-tat killings as republicans and loyal-ists recommit themselves to a can win. In the three consecu- | TRA ceasefire 10 months ago. | is not inifinite, and if no fur- | to.

IRA's 1994 ceasefire, loyalist paramilitaries out-killed republicans at a steadily in-creasing rate. The UVF and the Ulster Freedom Fighters

The auestion is whether there will be a new chain of tit-for-tat killings

both demonstrated a new capacity to construct and deliver bombs to their

targets.

that the loyalists have finally

paramilitaries' fury would have been vented upon a bar frequented by Catholics on the besis that "any taig will do".

ferent in that it was against a man who is widely known as leading republican from a hardline district However harsh it might

ound, such an attack will not provoke the same revulsion and anger that would have een felt if a random act of violence had been committed against the nationalist com-munity by loyalists.

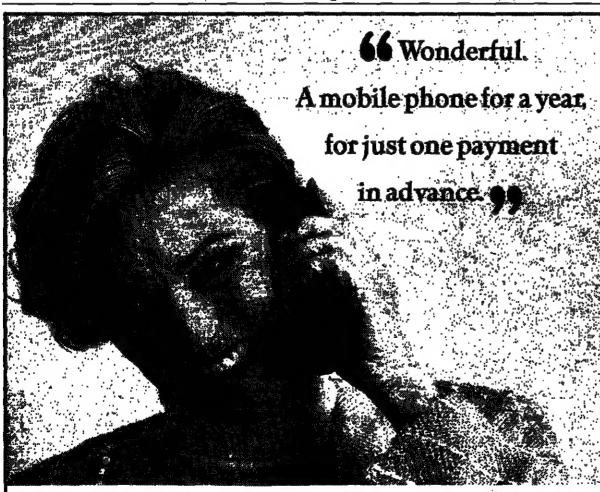
In an important sense. therefore, the ball is back in the court of the IRA. If yesterday's attack was a warning

mitted by them, then it will be up to republicans to decide whether or not they want to push Northern Ireland over

the edge. Even in the Ardoyne yester-day that did not seem to be the case - there was no boiling anger among the crowds milling around Mr Copeland's house, just relief that he was

By no means does that sug-gest that Northern Ireland have grown to love the peace of the past few years and will not lightly allow their neighbours to spall it.

It may be a slim hope but in these gloomy days it is all

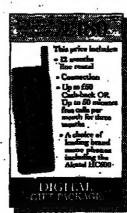


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Republican 'cat' survives second attempt on life

David Sharrock Ireland Corresp

DDIE Copeland may find himself being nicknamed the cat after surviving yesterday's apparent loyalist attack.

A soldier is serving 10 years in prison for the attempted murder of Mr. Copeland during the fu-neral of the IRA bomber Thomas Begley, who blew himself up with nine Prot-estants in the Shankill Road in October 1993. Mr Copeland was stand-

Begleys' Ardoyne home when he was hit twice in the back and chest. His assailant was Trooper Andrew Clarke, of the 9th/12th Lancers, who was on his second tour of duty

After emptying 20 rounds Clarke was disarmed by other soldiers.
During his trial, the Bel Clarke's frustration at seeing terrorist suspects walking freely and taunting soldiers. Lord Justice Carswell told the court that Clarke had recognised Mr. Mr. Gillen 'I've been Mr. Copeland from 'photo-Road in October 1993.

Mr Copeland was standing in the garden of the Copeland from photo- of Mr Copeland and an leader of his party.



Eddle Copeland: shot by soldier at IRA funeral



other leading Ardoyne republican. Sinn Fein's Ar-doyne spokesman, Bobby Lavery, yesterday admitted that Mr Copeland is "a well-known republican supporter, absolutely, and he makes no bones about it, but because of that there's quite a few people in the so-called security forces who hate him".
Mr Copeland's latest survival will enhance his reputation in both the republi-

can and loyalist com-munity. It is understood that he has corresponded with John Adair, the Ulster Freedom Fighter leader from the Shankill Road, who is in the Maze serving a long sentence for directing terrorism. Sources say that the correspondence suggests a relationship built upon rivalry. In 1994 Mr Copeland was

among three "IRA god-fathers" named in Parliament by the Ulster Unionist MP David Trimble, now

Merseyside tops NHS protests

HOSPITAL trust on HOSPITAL trust on Merseyside has topped the NHS complaints league after logging more than four grievances every day for a year. The Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen hospitals recorded 1,507 written protests in 1995/96, more than 300 ahead of the next most complained about trust. In 21 three trusts each recorded

In all, three trusts each reg istered more than 1,000 com-plaints. The others were For-est Healthcare in Essex, which is based on Whipp's Cross hospital, and the Leicester Royal Infirmary. The total number of written

1,170 Forest Healthcare, Essex er Royal Infirmary Guy's & St Thomas', S. London Chase Farm, Endeld, N. J. Hevering, Essex Nortolk & Norwich King's Healthcare, S. London

complaints in England rose by 5.6 per cent to 106,000. This represents 8.4 complaints for every 1,000 treatments by hos-pitals or community health services.

age submission of grievances, and recording systems vary. The Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen trust says its fig-ures include not only com-

plaints received in writing, but also those made by telephone or verbally to staff.

David Cain, the trust's deputy chief executive, said:

"Other trusts may not be as open-minded as we are on complaints. We know we are open-minned as we are on complaints. We know we are going to be criticised for hav-ing the highest number, but we want to know what the

The trust is the 13th biggest The numbers of complaints per trust cannot be seen as a wholly reliable measure of performance, as some do people attending casualty. It

was formed last year by the merger of two leading acute hospitals.

The Department of Health breaks down the figures for complaints into "clinical" or "other". For the second year Havering hospitals in Fessy Havering hospitals in Essex has registered the highest number of clinical complaints — 700 of its total 888.

However, the system is far from consistent: Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, recorded all its 658 complaints as clinical, yet the Royal Cornwall did so in only

The figures are the last to be produced in the series, a new NHS complaints procedure having been introduced

Jersey police given \$1m for help in busting US drugs smuggler

Philip Jeune

Stadter. A trust company based in Jersey which Stadter tried to use to launder the money informed police on the laland. They began an investigation that led to \$2.1 million by the US anthorities for their help in tracking down the proceeds of drug-trafficking.

The American ambassador in Britain, William Crowe, will go to Jersey in the new US Customs from a Texan drugs smuggler, Victor

Stadter. A trust company based of the force's commertial branch, only 5 per cent of the force's commertial branch, only 5 per cent mote anti-drugs education on the island.

Under Jersey law, any finance company dealing with nance company dealing with nance company dealing with nance company believed to be connected with drug-trafficking must inform police. Around 300 reports are made each year but according to Detective Inspector Peter Hopper, film Breakout.

ttack

Airport fracas as Christie flies in after brother's death



There were angry scenes at Heathrow yesterday as Linford Christie (above) arrived back in Britain following the killing of his brother.

colleagues, left the arrivals hall after landing on a Malaysian Airlines flight from Kuala Lumpur.

A 32-year-old unemployed man, Simon Williams, is due

today charged with the murder of the Olympic sprint champion's younger brother. Russell Christle, 34, of west to his neck.

Police found him lying in the street in Notting Hill, west London, after being alerted to a report of fighting.

Academic defends underclass claim

Threat to society from 'immoral some measures need to be morning after pill over the morning after pill over the counter." He added: "The people of low intelligence'

Luke Harding

PROFESSOR was unrepentant yesterday following outrage over his claim that society is being threatened by a degenerate underclass which is outbreeding intelligent

people.
Richard Lynn, emeritus
professor of psychology at the University of Ulster, argues that improvements in health care and an increas-ingly immoral society are leading to people of low in-telligence having more children at an earlier age.

decline in the quality of civ-ilised life.

He stops just short of

recommending what he

calls "coercive eugencies" but is writing a second book which addresses the "My argument is elitist," he said yesterday. "The professional and middle stranger to controversy. He

classes are generally superior in regard to other classes, particularly the underclass, in terms of in-telligence and moral

broken down. In centuries past, it did the job for us of weeding out those with the second se In his book Dysgenics: weeding out those with low in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have to get into social engineering to prevent complete social breakdown. You could use any columns and the underclass survive and general intelligence and a have children. Obviously solumnary methods — for lynn's book was to in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have to flave been written in It in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have to get into social engineering to prevent complete social breakdown. You could use any columns and the problem in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have to get into social engineering to prevent complete social breakdown. You could use any columns book was to flave the problem in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, he said: "We have been written in It is confident

reopen the debate about whether there is any link between genes, social class and intelligence.

Mainstream geneticists claim the link has never been proved and point out the overall IQ has risen in the past 50 years.

Prof Lynn, who also believes men are on average stranger to controversy. He recently argued that criminals should be flogged, claiming criminal behaviour is genetically passed from father to son. He also advocates caning for young

professional classes are a lot more efficient at handling contraception.
"A lot of people with low
IQ can't be bothered. This

causes excessive fertility." Yesterday other experts took issue with his views. Walter Bodmer, a professor of human genetics at Oxford University, said: The relationship between intelligence, however mea-sured, and fertility has been much commented on and never substantiated."

Steve Jones, a geneticist at University College, Lon-don, told the Sunday Times that IQ had risen over the past five decades. He said Prof Lynn's book was based on flawed data and could have been written in 1910. But Prof Lynn had little time for his critics yesterday. "Neither of them are

News in brief

E. Coli bug poisons outbreak investigator

A POLICEMAN investigating Scotland's food poisoning outbreak is suspected of having contracted the illness. The detective constable is among a team of Strathclyde police officers based at Wishaw collecting evidence for a fatal accident inquiry into the outbreak of £. coll that has resulted in 15 deaths.

It is understood that the condition of the 39-year-old officer is

not life-threatening. He had gone on sick leave on December 10 and was at home in Lanarkshire being treated as an outpatient at Monkslands District General hospital, said a Strathclyde

police spokeswoman. The officer has undergone tests to establish if he has been I ne on her has undergone tests to establish it he has been infected with the E. coli bacteria," added the spokeswoman. "So far the tests have proved inconclusive and further ones are being done. It is not know where he contracted the infection"

Mandelson rides in style

LAROUR'S chief election planner, Peter Mandelson MP, is to register the loan of a chauffeur-driven Rover to staff working in the Opposition's campaign office on Millbank near the Commons. In the present sensitive climate about declarations in the Register of Members Interests at Westminster, Sir Gordon Downey, the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, has advised Mr Mindelson, who wrote to him for guidance last week, that the either Desce themselse Listed

advised Mr Mandelson, who wrote to thin for guidance last week that the silver Rover should be listed. The MP for Hartlepool is said to be the chief beneficiary of the loan by James Palturibo, son of the millionaire property develloan by James Palumbo, son of the millionaire property developer. Lord Palumbo, and owner of the Ministry of Sound night-club which Mr Mandelson is known to favour. In a reference to the late Lord Wilson's remark about his party's "penny farthing" organisation, Mr Mandelson said in a statement: "We are a

professional team at Millbank. The days of relying on the penny farthing machine are all over." — Michael White

Charles guru 'seduced girl'

SIR Laurens van der Post, the Prince of Wales's "spiritual guru", had a child by a 14-year-old entrusted to his care and later denied he was the father, it was claimed yesterday. Sir Laurens died last Monday at his London home, aged 90. Cari Mostert, aged 42, told the Mail on Sunday that her mother was seduced by Sir Laurens, then a married man aged 47, when her family entrusted her to his care for a three-week voyage to England.

Mrs Mostert, who lives in South Africa, first met her father as a teenager, and says he burst into tears. But she claims when they pext met, more than 20 years later, he denied he was her father and refused to answer letters.

Crash heads for cinema

A CUT version of the film Crash could be screened in cinemas by the end of Janauary. Censors have recommended that the film, which depicts sadomasochists aroused by car accidents and mutilation, should be cleared for release.

Opponents of director David Cronennberg's film are expected to fight for a ban. Sources at the British Board of Film Classifica-tion told the Sunday Times that the 14-strong team of official examiners want a series of cuts.

£10m and no lottery publicity

A LOTTERY ticket holder who elected to avoid publicity won Saturday's £10.3 million jackpot. Twenty tickets won £159,000 each by matching five numbers plus the bonus ball: 5, 26, 35, 38, 42.

Major warns Euro rebels against splitting party

OHN Major yesterday slapped down rightwing Tory colleagues challenging his wait and see" policy on European issues like the single cur-rency debate — and warned his warring factions that they could trigger the party's worst split in 150 years.

Instead he tried to refocus their minds — and those of voters — on what he called the brightest economic prospects' since he was a teen-ager in the 1950s, and pre-dicted that Labour in office would ruin them through bad policies and inexperience.
The Prime Minister has

lso been struggling to contain the Tory Euro-row which some reports claim may see 150 MPs or candidates stating their opposition to a single currency in their election

Home Secretary, is said by friends to be preparing to out-flank potential rivals like John Redwood and Michael Portillo by openly question-European membership.

Meanwhile, the Eurosceptic press yesterday reported Lady Thatcher again telling friends at a private meeting that, unless basic reforms of the fish and farms policy are made, and the EU court's powers are curbed, Britain might have to consider withdrawal Norman Lamont is also edging to that view.

Mr Major may have had the latest reports in mind when he gave an interview to GMTV's Sunday Programme. While contrasting Europe's very different history he added: "That is not a prelude to saying Europe is always wrong, we are always right and we ought not to be part of it. We are infinitely better off

inside the EU than outside it. Let us brush away these

Europe, that is not in the Brit-ish interest and it isn't going to happen. But because we stay in the EU arguing, as I once put it, at the heart of the debate ... does not mean we agree with everything our

European partners do." That is consistent with all his recent public utterances despite persistent reports that in private he has been telling Eurosceptic MPs and editors he would like to move their way — but is tied by the insis-tence of tough pro-Europeans like Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine.

> day's cabinet debate on Europe — it was "certainly vigorous and vibrant, that is not a euphemism for a row," Mr Major stressed — now suggest that as many as nine of the 22 cabinet members de-manded a swing to the Euroates as Stephen Dorrell and William Waldegrave.

Lurid accounts of Thurs-

The issues were immensely tion an complex, Mr Major repeat-edly reminded GMTV's Alas- years.'

gued, would be be "much more centrist"

He played down the Tory party row over Europe, saying. "We're a very vigorous political party. We believe in debate. The Labour Party are trying to suppress debate. brighter for the future than at any time since I first took an interest in politics.

" No government will ever have gone into a general elec-tion since the second world war with the economy in such good shape ... And upon that record and what we can do with it for the British nation In the future we will base our appeal at the general election."

He added: "People can enjoy their Christmas this year. They've carned it. They've earned a good Christmas with Let's determine how we keep that going, not change direction and wreck what has been achieved over so many

Funding push by top colleges

EAVYWEIGHT

yesterday staked a claim to the lion's share of scarce public funding to keep up with international competition.

The heads of Cambridge, Edinburgh, Warwick and University College, London, urged the funding councils to pump money into departments of recognised interna-tional excellence in the wake of last week's national survey of academic research.

"If funds are dribbled out evenly and slowly and excel-lence is ignored, we will fail." they said in a letter to the Ob-server. Also Broers, Sir Stewart Sutherland, Sir Brian Fol-lett and Sir Derek Roberts argue that students will have to pay fees to maintain the quality of teaching in the best

With the former polytech-

New exam 'a waste of time'

XAMS for low-achieving awarded marks for filling in their names, addresses, by Sir Ron Dearing, the the date, and the name of Government's chief education the school. A maths paper tion adviser, have been criticised because they will award marks to candidates who spell their names correctly, writes Donald MacLeod

Schools and colleges are introducing syllabuses leading to the National Qualification at Entry Level in an effort to moti vate the estimated 40,000 pupils a year who leave without gaining any GCSE passes. Tests in English, naths and science are due to be sat in 1998.

In a specimen English 'all must paper candidates are syndrome.

councils in England, Scotland | Funding Council for England and Wales, and the Depart-ment of Education in Northern Ireland, will decide how nics attempting to break into | to distribute £1 billion to

the school. A maths paper shows children five pencils and asks them to count them and identify the long-

The Department for Edu-cation and Employment said the tests were designed to help children with learning difficulties

Nick Seaton, for the traditionalist Campaign For Real Education, called the new exam hopeless. "An average seven-year-old should be able to do it. It is a waste of time and totally stupid. It is just part of the 'all must have prizes'

has resisted calls for an "ivy league" of top universities. Research excellence was widely spread and 67 institu-

short of calling for a formal ivy league, they believe cer-tain types of research, particulary in science, need a large infrastructure and work best where institutions are large enough for academics in related fields to co-operate.

Different universities should have different goals and some should concentrate on teaching and vocational training, they said.

"We can only compete for the world's best brains if we offer top salaries and provide the latest equipment. To do research excellence, as our prosperous competitors do University funds must be steered towards those depart ments that are of recognised international excellence, who have a chance of winning the race." they said in the letter.

"To pretend that Oxbridge is no different from our recently created new universities is ludicrous."

The informal Russell Group of about 20 universities has been lobbying and Prof petition for resources has become cut-throat.

Next month the funding tive of the Higher Education four vice-chancellors stop recent research assessment.

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another pair of socks this year.

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But just try returning them to the shop after 90 days' use and see what reaction you get.

i protest

Sleaze seeps out of gift-wrapping

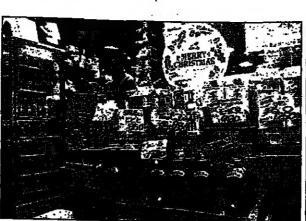
Jonathan Watts in Tokyo reports on the problem of corruption and bribery at the highest level in a country where the giving of presents is a time-honoured custom

papers have been full of stories about bureaucrats on the take, politicians receiving illegal donations, doctors being paid to falsify

dal in the 1970s, the latest ex-poses coincide with a drive for administrative reform,

used as a stick to beat them into relinquishing power. the police are cracking down in an effort to restore their reputation after the flasco of the Aum supreme truth cult investigation. Whatever the stimulus, corruption itself is widely held to be endemic in a country where gift-giving is

The main target of the latest purge has been the former chief civil servant at the min-



simmering away, a second has threatened to boil over at

oil industry representatives have bought political favours

the ruling Liberal Democratic

Party. Newspapers have

est on December 4 on bribery charges was the first of such senior official since the Recruit scandal which has threatened to boil over at the ministry of trade and inmister. Noboru Takeshita, dustry where, it is claimed.

Okamitsu took a kickback of 60 million yen (£310,000) after granting state subsidies to a ursing-home operator. Another ministry official has been arrested, one sacked and

At the end of last month the orime minister, Ryutaro Hahimoto, said he was "overwhelmed by the series of pub-lic scandals that have sharply reduced public trust in the ading a 2 million yen (£10,500) campaign contribution from a company linked to the Oka-

caped with its popularity intact. Last week Mr Hashimo to's personal rating rose to its

nobody is shocked any more," said Professor Takeshi Sasaki, a political scientist at Tokyo university, who has taught many of the bureaucrais now under attack.

"Many Japanese, including myself, suspect that this kind time. Okamitsu's case and the others merely confirm our suspicions: corruption is an

Mitsuzuka, have also accepted political donations saki, is Japan's gift-giving culture. "It is very difficult to distinguish between a gift and a bribe and this complicates

Each in December, Japan's department stores are filled with displays of oscibo (year-end gifts) which, unlike Christmas presents, are sent as a matter of duty to build personal relations and to recognise an obligation. Crates items that change hands.

The Japanese are estimated to spend about £55 billion each year on gifts. Presents are given on almost every imaginable occasion, often in the form of an envelope of rocate creates a potentially dangerous money-go-round for public figures.
"It is very common for

bureaucrats at all ministries to receive gifts and hospitality. You get more and more the higher up the promotional ladder you go," explained Masao Miyamoto, a former senior civil servant at the

a relationship, but there is almost always an ulterior motive. People give gifts be-cause they want something in

Mr Miyamoto's career was destroyed because of his refusal to get dragged into the system of favours. "My supe-rior made it very clear to me. that I was expected to go to restaurants with businessmen we dealt with even though it had no direct connection to work. He said it was all part of building up connections. After I said no, I was pushed out of the ministry."

Not surprisingly, given this anvironment, the government has made little progress in in-troducing effective measures to tackle corruption. After the Recruit scandal most minis-tries established committees to tighten discipline among are routinely flouted.

If the allegations are true, Mr Okamitsu, who once headed a disciplinary committee, broke almost every rule he was once responsible

"Instructions or agree-

management and co-ordination agency, who has respon-sibility for improving the eth-

Earlier this month the go ernment announced a draft proposal of 12 prohibitions for civil servants, banning them from sccepting gifts or special seen whether it will be given any teeth. Many in the Japapro-bureaucracy Liberal Democratic Party to head off

Conscious of the public mood, most ministries have banned their officials from attending year-end parties or accepting even desk calen-dars as gifts. But once the ballyhoo dies down, analysts ex-pect it will be back to

"The government has no serious intention of introducing anti-corruption legisla-tion. People will soon forget the current scandals and next December, the bureaucrats will get their oscibo as usual,"

Hebron talks deadlocked as violence flares

HE American negotiator trying to break the deadlock over an Israeli withdrawal from Hebron. way yesterday as new Arab-Israeli clashes flared in the West Bank town.

Mr Ross met Israel's prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, before going to Gaza to meet the Palestinian Author-ity president, Yasser Arafat. His visit comes at a time when the Israeli and Pales-tinian leaders are caught up in an alarming display of

Under the Oslo accords, Islast March, but the talks have been stuck, mainly on the ssues of the right of Palestinian police to carry weapons and Israel's insistence on being able to pursue suspects into Palestinian areas.

At first Mr Arafat greeted the envoy's visit with disdain. He accused Washington of blas towards Israel, after the secretary of state, Warren Christopher, said last week that Israel had moved to accommodate the Palestinians on the issue of Hebron, and that it was now for the Palestinians to make concessions.

But after meeting Mr Ross he described their talks as "constructive and fruitful".
"We discussed how to push the peace process forward in all means," he said. The Israeli defence minis-

ter, Yitzhak Mordechai, said after meeting Mr Ross: "Israel has advanced towards compromise on some important lee region, security sources issues on the Hebron question in the desire to bring the mathematical bomb was "one of the direcpromise on some important

is up to Yasser Arefat to take similar steps."

more delays will cause a crisis in relations between the thority, and that if Mr Netan-yahu goes ahead with plans to

could lose a valuable ally.

An israeli official said the envoy had told the foreign minister, David Levy, that it was not issues but a "breakdown in confidence" that was the main problem, and that Mr Arafat was losing faith in the process. According to the official, Mr Ross said he did not expect to reach an agreement on Hebron during his visit, due to end tonight.

Palestinians have been parannouncement of plans to give financial incentives to settlers and to increase their number in the Arab east Jerusalem district of Ras al-Amoud.

The talks were overshadowed by more violence yesterday in Hebron. Palesand molotov cocktails at Israeli troops guarding Jewish settlements. Soldiers in riot rear imposed a curfew. On were arrested after firebombs were thrown at a Jewish

Earlier yesterday morning a bomb exploded, damaging a soldiers' hitch-hiking post south of Bethlehem near the Alon Shvut Jewish settlement. An Israeli was killed yes-terday by an explosion on a kibbutz in the northern Gali-

Africa's only wild equines, the horses of Namibia, strut their stuff among the sand dunes and rock fields of the Namib

Jordan hides Israeli business links

Weizman trips on anti-gay remarks

Danny Gur-arieh In Jerusalem

Ezer Weizman, was in hot water yesterday after weekend remarks which outraged Israeli gays and liberals and underlined the former air force chief's Duke of Edinburgh-style talent for the faux pas.

Mr Weizman, whose pres-idential role is largely symbolic, triggered the row in a rambling response to a to high school students which was interpreted as

"Homosexuality is abnormal from a social point of view. I don't like it. What the public decides to do with homosexuals, it will decide through laws," he said to applause from

But the cheers turned to giggles when he added that homosexuality "has be-come nice", his voice rising in tone. He repeated the mer Weizman aide and now word "nice" in an even a member of Israel's main

from his mouth. "The presi- rated. It almost makes me dent will meet with a respectable delegation of homosexuals and lesbians today and I think things will be clarified." said rated. It almost makes me say this is not the same person who was elected president." he told Israel Radio. "His ignorance simply amazes me."—Reuter.

remarks provoked. Mr Shumer said: "He doesn't retract his statements." Rabbis lauded Mr Weiz-man, but hundreds of Israe-

lis protested outside his Jerusalem home and de-manded his resignation. "It grants legitimacy to illegal attacks, to incite-ment, and it invalidates a whole section of the public which under the law is equal in every way. The president of Israel is delegitimising this group,"

said Yael Dayan, an MP. In 1994 Mr Weizman outraged women's groups woman's quest to become an air force pilot, he said a woman's place was in the

Rarlier this year he compared Islamic guerrillas fighting Israeli troops in Lebanon to Nazis

Menahem Shaizaf, a forhigher pitch.
Mr Weizman's aides were scrambling yesterday to dislodge their boss's foot how this man has deterio-

Few successful ventures are publicised, writes **Mariam Shahin** in northern Jordan

HE al-Hassan industrial | skimpy T-shirts are being estate sits in the middle of nowhere in the northern desert of the Hashemite kingdom.
This is the unlikely home

of one of the few successful joint ventures between Jordanian and Israeli businessmen which have been publicised in the two years since the two countries signed a peace deal: an imderwear company pro-ducing popular designer

Every morning, six days week 300 women — most of whom come from northern villages and a nearby Palestinian refugee camp and wear veils are bused to the Century Wear factory to sew garments for export to the United States. Pre-cut women's under-wear, men's jockey shorts and sewn up on Japanese sewing machines. The label says 'Made in Israel". The factory's Jordanian

owner, Omar Salah, says: "This joint venture is the first of its kind. I consider it a success because it has created employment where there was none and it is raising Jordan's industrial standards." Estimates of the level of unemployment in Jordan range from 17 to 25 per cent. Creating jobs was one of the hopes pinned on the peace

treaty with Israel. Mr Salah has tripled his workforce since he opened in March Along with nine Jordanian partners, he has great hopes of more joint ventures

producing garments for the the Palestinian market to US lingeric line Victoria's itself he says. Secrets, as well as Hanro.
Gap, Ralph Lauren, Donna
Karan and Banana Republic.
But the Century investment
group is one of the faw to have gone public with its ioint venture.

Opposition to trade with Israel has been growing since Binyamin Netanyahu became Israel's prime minister last May. While Jordan imported £1.8 million-worth of Israeli goods in 1995, Israel imported Jordanian goods worth just £625.000.

Jordanian manufacturers say that Israel's economic policies — including 50 per cent tariffs and bureaucratic transport procedures - have been unfavourable to them. Nizar Darwazeh, who heads Jordan's Chamber of Com-

Given political hostilities, Israel's chances of marketing products in Jordan or using it as a conduit for exports to the Arab world appear to be slim. But behind the hostile Arab

rhetoric, Israel appears to be making headway. So far this month three Israeli companies have shown their goods in Amman, and a Jordanian Trade Fair in Beirut has exhibited some products partly finished in Israel.

They were put on show by Jordanian company which chooses to hide its Israeli connections Rami Quttub, the manager of a freight and trading com-pany which acts as agent for an Israeli carrier, accuses

businesses of hypocrisy. "Too many Jordanians who are doing business with the March. Along with time out.

danian partners, he has great hopes of more joint ventures with Israel companies.

Cantury Wear is currently contained to companies.

Cantury Wear is currently contained to companies.

Cantury Wear is currently contained to companies.

Statistics of contained to companies are doing business with the Israel sare trying to hide the fact from the public for fear of retribution," he says.

News in brief

Greek farmers to end their blockade

de of the country's main roads and railways, 25 days after aunching their protest against economic austerity measure To growing disgrumtlement with their action, farmers leading the revolt from the central town of Larissa announced that they had decided to stop blocking roads with their tractors as a goodwill gesture during the festive season.

The blockade not only cut Greece in half but sealed its

international borders, stranding thousands of foreign lorry drivers. Its effects are believed to have cost the economy more

The prime minister, Costas Simitis, has faced a barrage of strikes and protests from workers denouncing his tough bud-get, which was passed by parliament on Saturday. The stringent fiscal policies form part of his government's efforts to meet the criteria for a single European currency. The farmers said they would reconvene after the holidays with a view to staging more protests. — Heleno Smith, Athens.

Mobutu may appoint PM

President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire may appoint a prime minister if the political parties fall to meet his deadline today for forming a crisis government to deal with the rebels fighting in the east of the country, aides said.

his emergency powers to name a new prime minister.

"The president is open to all possibilities, but what he hoped for

was unity to face the war in the east, because if political leaders remain divided it will only serve the rebels' cause," the spokes-man, Kabuya Lumuna, said.

Political parties have squabbled among themselves over who is to lead a government to handle the war against the Rwandan-backed rebels. — Reuter, Kinshasa.

Navidad comes early

CHRISTMAS festivities began with ecstatic joy in the Spanish city of Valencia yesterday when the lottery billed as the world's largest showered its jackpot of 33 billion pesetas (£160 million) on hundreds of residen

mindreds of residents.

The main prize, which Spaniards call "el gordo" (the fat one), was divided among the holders of 120 tickets. In total, 166 billion esetas in tax-free winnings were handed out as part of the

One of the winners was present when a pupil of Saint Ildefonso School in Madrid picked out the lucky number, and leaped up in jubilation. Security guards quickly hustled him out of the room as reporters tried to get his first reaction. — AP. Madrid.

Singapore party's built-in win

SINGAPORE'S prime minister, Goh Chok Tong, who is expected to announce today the date for a general election, is confident his People's Action Party (PAP) will have a parliamentary majority

even before voting takes places.

Singapore Television reported him saying yesterday that he did not expect opposition parties to be able to field more than 40 candidates for the 83 elected seats, which would mean the PAP would have a ready-made majority. This happened in the last

Opposition parties have long had difficulty persuading people to stand against the monolithic PAP, which has transformed Singapore's economy. — Reuter, Singapore.

Tajik hostages 'to be freed'

THE release of two opposition representatives being held hostage in Tajikistan could be imminent, the Itar-Tass news agency said yesterday. The two are the last of 23 hostages, including seven United Nations military observers, taken captive by gunnen on Friday. The other captives were released on Saturday evening. The hostages were members of a joint government-opposition commission monitoring a ceasefire in Tajikistan.

The kidnappers belong to a group led by a warlord, Rezvon Sadirov, who early this month switched over to the government side the Interfax news agency said. — AP. Dushmiba

side, the Interfax news agency said. — AP, Dushenbe.

Mines kill five children

FTVE children died yesterday when they stepped on mines in the breakaway Russian region of Chechenia, news agencies reported. The accident took place near a road about six miles from the capital, Grozny, the deputy Chechen prime minister, Movladi Udugov, told the Itar-Tass news agency. The five victims, all boys, were aged between 10 and 12. — Renter, Moscow.



What distinguishes new moralists like Anne Atkins is that they project themselves with chilling officacy as representatives of mainstream opinion.

G2 cover story

Case grows for poll fraud

tional mission sent to Serbia to investigate allegations that President Slobodan Milosevic's govern-ment manipulated the local election results said yester-day that the evidence of offi-cial malpractice "seems to be

member of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) team, spoke as the demonstrations for and against Mr Milosevic's government continued.

Felipe González, the OSCE ussion leader and former investigation and would make recommendations with-

jedno (Together) claimed to have proved to OSCE that it ated of victory in the

Opposition sources said the OSCE team has persuaded Mr Milosevic to surrender the towns and Belgrade. In right to call a new poll early next year to try to recover them for his Socialists, the

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Zajedno said the Socialists were planning to hold "final" demonstrations in Belgrade in support of Mr Milosevic

growing hatred and the prox-imity of the two rival groups could easily cause the vio-lence which the Zajedno leaders and Mr Milosevic have promised to avoid.

of intimidating the popula tion of smaller towns to stop Kralievo. The police arrested three demonstrators and beat two of them in the town of Smederevo yesterday, Za-jedno said. — Reuter.



Serbia's sleeping dogs beginning to stir

I ne men who did Milosevic's diny work watch with interest the protests against him, writes Julian Borger in Belgrade

with carnivorous interest.

The last time President Slobodan Milosevic was under democratic reforms, he made them rich by choosing chaos instead. For now at least, they eem happy savouring the fat

In Vojislav Seselj's case, this is literally true. He has to manoeuvre his burgeoning paunch into position before addressing the press in his new role as mayor of Zemun, a leafy Belgrade suburb on the banks of the Danube.

other hand, has become a captain of commerce. Better known as Arkan, he is now a slimmer, fitter figure, in s charcoal-grey suit he cruise the plush carpets of his new casino, spreading multilingual bonhomie at the roulette

Both did President Milose-vic's dirty work in Croatia and Bosnia, leading militias financed and armed by the vic's dirty work in Croatia and Bosnia, leading militias financed and armed by the Serbian police. Together they

ERBIA'S dogs of war may not yet be straining at the leash, but they have one eye open and are watching civil rights protests and in a report on war the gains by the Zajedno crimes. "Upon entering a vil-lage ... Seselj and Arkan's troops would begin their reign

> which sessed and Arkan's troops were operating, there were allegations of killing of civilians, rape, looting, destruction of private or cultural property, and prison camps."
>
> In peacetime, their brand of ultra-nationalism has to compete with old-style socialism — back in fashion under the patronage of the president's wife, Mirjana Markovic.

Her associates have been using their connections to encroach upon the warlords' trading interests; Seseli and den their pleasure at the ruling family's discomfiture.
Nonetheless, they retain a symbiotic relationship with the regime. No one stays in business without its approval.

(Together) coalition in the local elections, Seselj's win in

Zemun was allowed to stand. of terror. In an overwhelming in return, Arkan and Seselj majority of the counties in have kept their supporters off which Seselj and Arkan's the streets. "My heart is with the protests, but now is not the right time," Arkan said. Seselj, meanwhile, has pro-

coming a proving ground for xenophobia, upon which Mr Milosevic can draw should he decide it necessary before republican elections next

The few Roman Catholic

sible face of parliamentary opposition. "We need dia-logue and debate in parlia-

street," he told journalists.

According to a Western dip-

lomst, Sessij's election suc-cess "means that Milosevic can say to the West look at

Zemun is in danger of be-



understandably nervous: five years ago, Seseli declared them "the greatest enemies" ment to defuse tensions in the of the Serbs.

The ethnic Albanians in Kosovo have reason to feel apprehensive, too. Western dip-lomats had been confidently predicting the restoration of elf-government in Kosovo early next year, after it was made a precondition for the lifting of international financial sanctions.

Since the protests at the government's rigging of the November elections, a deal seems to have been put on the back-burner. President Milosevic can therefore cast the Albanians as hate-figures and relaunch himself as a nationalist hero. The ground has been laid: state television has alleged that "Albanian exup the street protests.

Seselj and Arkan have de clared themselves ready to resuscitate their respective militias — the "Cetniks" and the "Tigers" — to defend the remains of Greater Serbia, whether in Bosnia or Kosovo. whether in Bosma of Kosovo.
"I think this is a real danger," said Sonja Biserko of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights. "Everyone is watching the street protests, but these people are getting stronger."

abandoning the sport for

and tired propaganda ploy."—Reuter. fear all the time," he said. Battling army mutineers and

tection during the World Tennis Championship in cause of threats, he said.

the worst thriller."

The hour-long interview was recorded in Florida, where Mr Becker recently bought a £500,000 house near Jim Courier, a fellow

States than in Germany, he confirmed that he planned to emigrate permanently before his son reached school age in three years'

"We have a responsibility

Gingrich fights for political survival

House Speaker admits breaching tax laws

the Republican right, was fighting for his political life yesterday after admitting he had given false information to a congressio-

al ethics committee.
"I brought down on the people's house a controversy which could weaken the faith

insisting that a cross-party investigation into his tax affairs vestigation into his far attains was a politically-inspired plot, Mr Gingrich's U-turn could fatally damage his pros-pert of re-election as House

accepted money from right-wing tax-exempt charities for political activities, without checking if it was permitted under federal tax law, and then had given the panel "in-accurate, incomplete and un-

majority in 1994, calling for

drop his bid next month to become the first Republican in

David Bonior, the House minority whip who has led the campaign against Mr Gingrich, said he did not deserve the speakership. "Con-tributions from Newt's rich friends to these groups were laundered back into his own empire," Mr Bonior said yesterday. "This was an attempt to defraud taxpayers. He should step aside." After conducting a frantic

telephone charm offensive. Republican Party leaders managed to generate a show of unity among rank-and-file congressmen, but there are growing fears that support for Mr Gingrich will erode be-tween now and January 7,

Senior Republicans tried to Republican conference chairman, said: "These are just technical infractions of the rules. No serious charge has

idmits he made mistakes, and regrets it. That is refreshing." Some of Mr Gingrich's

tended to mislead the House ethics committee, given that tee's findings stopped short of

accusing him of lying.
But the sub-committee five Democrats and five Republicans criticised him rules applicable to payments made for two lectures at Georgia colleges and a televised "town hall" meeting, and for misleading the investigators. In particular, Mr Gingrich told the committee that no money had been received from Gopac, a Republican po-litical action committee. In

lecture series on Renewing American Civilisation.

Accepting the charges, Mr Gingrich said his failure to make adequate checks on the

Among other contributors to the events was the Progress and Freedom Foundation, a rightwing think-tank which includes Gingrich supporters.
The committee will now decide on a suitable punishment, which could range from a reprimand — a verbal rap over the knuckles — to censure, which would force him to give up the Speaker's chair,

German Speaker faces new 'air miles' claim

Denis Staumton in Berlin

LEAZE allegations against the Speaker of the German parliament Rita Süssmuth, took a new turn yesterday when news-papers reported that she has made more short- and me-dium-range flights on Luftwaffe jets than the for-eign minister, Klaus Kinkel

the Netherlands, where she has a holiday home. gations that she used a gov-ernment jet to make frequent visits to her daughter in trips were on official business. She reacted angrily to the latest allegations, claiming that she was the victim of a

politically-motivated campaign. 'I am furious and out-raged, because you can wear people down so much with these campaigns that they no longer know what the truth is. For me, this is a question of lost honour that I want Ms Susamuth is suing the Bild am Sountag tabloid, gations. But her lawyers admitted last week that she used a Luftwaffe jet to fly from Bonn to Zurich to see her daughter in October 1995.

"To me, this is a breach of the guidelines. The Luftwaffe fleet may only be used for official purposes and that cer-tainly does not include private celebrations," said Dieter Lau, vice-president of the Federation of Taxpayers. Ms Süssmuth, who has published a list of all her official flights since she took office, yesterday repeated that she

"I do not retract an lots of what I said after the first allegations a week ago. I booked and paid for private trips to Switzerland through Lufthansa and Swissair like any other citizen. Supervision is necessary. But campaigns are aimed at long-term damage." She claimed that snother tung. But the newspaper in-sists the visit was instigated Sources close to Ms Süssmuth insisted yesterday that her frequent flights to the spokesman for Mr Kinkel who also has a holiday home

out that he commutes there "exclusively by car". Chancellor Kelmut Kohl's Christian Democrats. Al-

relationship with Mr Kohl she received support from politicians in all parties last According to a report in

today's edition of the news magazine Der Spiegel, the original source of the allegations was a disgruntled Ba-varian whose flight from flight was necessary to pay an Curich was delayed on ac official visit to the editorial of count of one of Ms Suss fices of the Neue Zürcher Zei- muth's Luftwaffe flights.

Boris Becker's life was 'like the worst thriller'

Denis Staunton in Berlin

ORIS BECKER, com-Bplaining of racist threats to his black wife and three-year-old son, said last night he would leave Germany within the next three years. The tennis star, aged 29, said in a television inter-view that persistent threats had made him consider

"It has become more in-"It has become more in-tense because of my little boy and my wife. It hap-pens when I spend a lot of time in Germany and ap-pear on television or there are a lot of press reports about me. Suddenly the lu-natics come out of their holes and come threatening. holes and send threatening letters and so on. I ask myself if it's worth it, to live in Mr Becker, his wife Barbara and son Noah were under 24-hour police pro-

We were each protected by 10 bodyguards and when I went to training, there were three cars behind me

Admitting that he felt more at ease in the United

to give him the chance to have as normal a school life is smaller in Germany than abroad. It's also more difficult for a coloured person to grow up among white friends in a white society. that he returned to Ger-We must make sure to cre- many from tax exile in Moate an environment where naco a few months earlier that is normal too, where it in 1994 than his tax decladoesn't matter what colour | ration admits.

you are," he said.

He refused to comment on a raid last week by tax officials on his home in Muwas arrested earlier this nich, during which files year on tax fraud charges, were removed. Investigators are believed to suspect and local taxes. are obliged to pay federal

Manger mania in crib capital



lan Traynor

N THE German hamlet where Christmas never stops, the Baby Jesus has blue eyes, brown eyes and green eyes. He is fair, he is swarthy and he comes in all shapes and sizes.

He is adored by real donkeys, by coin-operated lambs, or miniature goats. Hundreds of Wise Men bear gifts to the swaddled babies who lie in their mangers are the swaddled babies. 365 days a year. Brigades of Josephs minister to their virgin wives. They are all hugely relieved they have found beds for the night. Losheim, a village of 400 souls, and Hergersberg, a similar settlement a few yards away across the Belgian handar and the mandare

gian border, are the world's crib capital. They have more model Baby Jesuses

than real children. Since Hans Scheins of

nearby Aachen cultivated "crib friends", was born. his crib mania more than The Cribs Club followed. 20 years ago, scouring the churches and villages of the Cologne region for fine specimens of the Christmas models, his followers have foraged way beyond the Rhineland, bringing cribs to Loshelm from several

"We've got Catholic cribs and Protestant cribs. We collect cribs from wherever Christmas is celebrated," said Alwine Morgens, who supervises the collection of about 200 models at the purpose-built cruciform building tu Losheim. Mr Scheins started the

collection in the early 1970s and by 1978 had scores of models from north-west Germany, Bel-gium and the Netherlands, which he housed in a disused factory at Monchau,

further north. "People heard about it all over the place," Mrs Mor-gens said, "and started call-ing up offering cribs from lots of different countries. We've got around 200 at the moment, but they change every year."

Tve made four in the past few years," said Paula Marxen, a Catholic house wife from a nearby village, who works 12 hours a week at the Krippana. "I kept one for myself, gave one to my daughter, and sold two, about 150 marks (262) each, but you can get about 800 marks for them." The models range from

After Mr Scheins died, his

son Hubert carried on. The derelict factory became im-

shaped Krippana was built in Losheim.

The visitors poured in

about 70,000 a year and about a third of them in the

four weeks of Advent. The

influx spawned carols, crib

workshops and crib-mak-

ing courses.

miniatures to coin-operated mechanised versions replete with waterfalls. Losheim's pride is the lifesize outdoor crib fashioned from an old thatched barn. It has real donkeys, lambs and goats, and life-size woodcut models of the Holy A gang of enthusiasts. Family by the Tyrolean who called themselves sculptor Andreas Demetz.

exquisite finely-wrought

News in brief

Bangladesh jail ered a CIA spy network. A US spokesman in Washington had said: "This is a well-noted revolt crushed

Security forces yesterday stormed a prison in Jessore, Bangladesh, crushing a revolt by inmates in an operation which left at least five people dead, police said. The raid ended the week

long uprising the last of four in the country in the past week. - Reuter.

Hammer falls France's Communists dropped

their hammer-and-sickle em blem at the end of their congrees in Paris yesterday, and said they were willing to join a cabinet if the Left wins the

Zardari detained

A Karachi court yesterday gave police another four days to question Asif Ali Zardari the husband of Pakistan's for Bhutto, about the murder of her brother, Murtaza. Mr Zar-dari was held on Thursday on his release from jail. — Reuter.

played Santa Claus for more than 20 years, was charged with assault in Plaistow, New Hampshire, for allegedly slapping a 7-year-old cub scout who had tugged on his beard. Several cubs had accused him 'Propaganda ploy' Al-Thawra, the newspaper of Irag's ruling Ba'ath party, ping a 7-year-old culy yesterday assailed the United who had tugged on his States for dismissing Baghdad's claim that it had uncovered to being a fake.—AP.

troops loyal to the government have agreed to extend a ceasefire in Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, a presidential spokesman sald yesterday. - Reuter. Militant held United States immigration

Truce extended

agents have detained Anwar Haddam, a spokesman for the militant Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) seeking political asylum, who faces a civil law-suit for "crimes against hu-manity, war crimes and other gross human rights and hu-manitarian law violations" launched by seven Algerian and French plaintiffs over FIS violence in Algeria's civil war. — The Washington Post.

Roy Keiser, aged 65, who has

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Hunticultural Trades Association

The Guardian

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Keeping an eye on Hong Kong Britain must take the lead

HONG KONG'S last months before it returns to the motherland will be anxious ones - even if the stock market continues to rise. By appointing a Provisional Legislature (ProvLeg) to supplant the one elected last year, China has ensured a difficult as well as bizarre political transition. The real Legislative Council (LegCo) will continue to meet in Hong Kong while the Provileg convenes under red banners. More than half the members of one already belong to the other including LegCo's president and his deputy. How will they arrange their diaries? How will they deal with conflicting proposals? It makes a farcical and worrying start to what is supposed to be a new age of confidence.

Hong Kong has become much more politically aware since the 1989 Beijing Massacre triggered public anxiety, but it is beginning to drift back to an earlier mood of cynical acceptance. The sentiment that "nothing can be done about it" - whether "it" is political stagnation, abuse of the law, or massive corruption - is already familiar on the mainland. As the South China Morning Post commented yesterday, if future opinion polls show growing support for the ProvLeg, "it is because Hong Kong people have been given no choice." Accommodation to Beijing may for many become the only realistic way. It will for example be much better for Hong Kong if the widely admired current Chief Secretary Anson Chan keeps her job as No. 2 after the handover, and as many other senior civil servants as possible, even if

they have come to terms with the ProvLeg. Chris Patten was right to describe the election of the ProvLeg as a farce in which members of the handpicked Selection Committee voted for one another and themselves in an absurd charade of democracy. But once again he expressed himself in a manner which will impress few people in Hong Kong and no one in Beijing. Analogies with the choice of a tennis club committee are better suited for the voters of Bath. To the end of his term, Mr Patten has been unable to grasp the difference between delivering double whammies at home and

communicating effectively with China. The strong protest delivered by the Foreign Secretary is a different matter. Britain now has to take over the role of forthright critic which will become very difficult for the majority of Hong Kongers. Malcolm Rifkind was right not to criticise the selection by Beijing (through its handpicked committee) of the new Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa. The Joint Declaration (JD) of 1984 was ambiguous on the method and it was always assumed this would be determined by Beijing. He is equally right to describe the new ProvLeg as not, in any reasonable sense, a legislature "constituted by elections" — as required by the JD. And Beijing is wrong to claim that Britain has no legitimate interest in Hong Kong after the handover. The Joint Liaison Group will function till the end of 1999, after which Britain still has a special duty to ensure that this internationally recognised

agreement is properly observed. The people of Hong Kong must hope that Britain's words are now more than a formality for the record. Everyone must also hope that those in Beijing who understand the need for reassurance will quietly prevail. The Chinese government still has a range of options. It can, and should, confine the role of the Provileg to passing only the most urgent laws (and not doing so before the actual handover). Serious issues should be left to the new LegCo which, on Beijing's own timetable, must be elected a year later. China also needs to clarify and confirm the election arrangements for this and future LegCos in its own Basic Law - which says half of the councillors will be directly elected in the year 2003, and that election of all members by universal suffrage is the "ultimate aim". The commitment is important because it offers hope that Hong Kong may still get there in the end.

End-of-term U-turns

Major's secret democracy

THE British political system, said John Major in a breakfast interview on Friday, is "the best in the world". He praised in particular its system of checks and balances. Viewers might be forgiven for choking over their cornflakes and croissants at such a brazen display of complacency.

Mr Major made his claims at the end of a week when ministers indulged in blatant manipulation of the parliamentary timetable. In the last days before the Christmas recess, they pushed through and slipped out a host of controversial measures to meet manufactured deadlines or avoid controversy. That is completely understandable from the point of view of the executive. It is hardly an example of healthy democratic practice. As MPs prepared to leave Westminster's febrile atmosphere, the Government published a controversial (and for laymen, that is to say, most MPs, a complex) report from Professor Caddy on contamination at the forensic laboratory at Fort Halstead. It had been available to the home secretary, for weeks - time to prepare his spin, notably that everything was fine and there was no need to question any previous convictions based on evidence processed there.

The Government also pushed through the Protec tion from Harrassment Bill and introduced the Sex Offenders Bill The Attorney-General Sir Nicholas Lyell announced, ten months after the Scott report, that in future Public Interest Immunity certificates - so-called gagging orders - would no longer be used simply to protect ministers from political embarrassment. It was an unobserved victory for Sir Richard and an 180 degree

U-turn by the Government. In another U-turn, Mr Howard announced that private security guards would henceforth have to be licensed. He also gave a superficial account, in a written parliamentary answer, to agreements made at a meeting last month by EU ministers on a raft of law and order issues. In another written answer, the Government confirmed the Guardian's disclosure, initially described by Mr Major as "disgraceful", that changes in war pension rules will hit veterans and save millions of pounds for

the Treasury. Yet throughout the week, Whitehall departments insisted they could not say a word to the media and other interested parties about the stream of statements. other interested parties about the stream of statements, bills, and Government reports, until ministers had informed MPs. To do so, they explained without a hint of irony, would be a contempt of Parliament, an abuse of their inalienable right to treat cially if we want to toughen wills. Indeed, the nation is indeed, the nation indeed in the nation indeed



Letters to the Editor

Town hall sums Who's the cleverest? can't add up

YOU are right to argue that the Standard Spending Assessment is enormously complicated and to point to the centralising way in which the Standard Spending Assessments have operated (Thurn ments have operated (Town hall turns red, December 11). But you are wrong to claim that the civil servants enjoy complexity: it is because local government income now depends so much more on central government that there is pressure from those local governments on the centre to be

arments on the centre to be much more precise, which leads to more complexity.

But the real problem with the current way of calculating the Standard Spending Assessment is not that they are complex but that, in many cases they are simply wrong. Indeed, we would challenge the assertion that these cumbersome tion that these cumbersome calculations are measuring need at all, as they are based on associations between expenditure and socio-economic conditions which are simply reproduced through the expen-diture-capping mechanism from year to year. Whilst we also deplore the centralising mechanisms, we believe that the more precisely need is measured the more equitable the result. At the same time, ject to measurement uncertainty and it is important to display such uncertainty. Peter Smith.

University of St Andrews Harvey Goldstein. Institute of Education. Roy Carr-Hill. University of York York YO1 5DD.

One plus mum

Y SIX-year-old son was Widelighted when he worked out that my brother had two wives (one tech-nically being an ex-wife). The new moral education curriculum (Moral education could lead to improved exam results, December 20) will lead him to another important discovery: his uncle is twice as moral as his aunties who have only been married once and three times as moral as his mother and father, who aren't married at all. No wonder moral education leads to higher academic results, it's a good deal more interesting than if Tom has two apples and Sheila has one . . . 43 Fordwich Road.

The secret's out i

HERE are no Lodges in the House of Commons (Two Freemasons' lodges at Com-mons, claims author, Decemfounded in 1929 partly becaus that they may be deselected because their constituents misunderstand Freemasonry. M B S Higham. cretary, United

was a Labour MP for liford South. He was, in fact, a Con-servative member. Cllr D R Sharma.

over research, December 20), Oxford did not pip Cambridge to top the league table of research in UK universities. In fact, Oxford pipped the Inwhich, having 91 per cent of its staff excelling in inter-national standard research, lles between Oxford and Cambridge in your league table.
What is more, another 20 institutions actually did better than Oxford or Cambridge on

this basis. The myth of Oxbridge research supremacy is sus-tained when, in reality, it is a "superleague" of institutions (all doing university teaching as well as research) who are the real research elits. All but four members of this superleague are affiliated to the University of London. They include all seven of the post-graduate medical institutes of the University which, until recently, were federated together as the British Postgraduate Medical Federation. Thanks to the reforms of London's medical education put into effect by Virginia Bot-tomley's Making London Better (sic) directive, the Federa

ONTRARY to your these institutes have been scattered to the winds of collegiate whim in the University. (Dr) Keith Snell. Scientific Secretary Institute of Cancer Res

University of London.

YOU describe grades 3a and 3b of the universities' research league as being for "departments doing some work of national excellence", ie containing at least a few staff who are doing commend-ably well but who have not yet quite made it into the international research league. Maybe that is what was supposed to happen. The real-ity is different. Lancaster hysics, for example, judged by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) as being the

best in England (second in the UK) in terms of its international impact factor in research, has been ranked a 3a by the Higher Education 3a by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). Note that the ISI, based in Philadelphis, is a genuically independent body. Unlike the penels used for the UE exercise, it has no personal axes to grind and no particular interest in the particular interest in the

outcome Absurdities like this de-

cise. They seem to suggest that, sadly, influence and prejudice still count for more in this country than perfor-mance and achievement, objectively measured. Prof P V E McClintock. School of Physics and Chemistry, Lancaster University,

Lancaster LA1 4YB.

AMAJOR effect of the Research Assessment Ex-ercise has been to devalue eaching in higher education. Hence it is important to know the views on the subject of the chief executive of the HRFCR, whom you quote as saying "... staff in departments with poorly-rated research would be axed to concentrate money on the most productive

researchers while others stuck to teaching". How he is going to prevent teaching becoming in the main the task of research rejects; and what he is going to do to encourage universi-ties to treat teaching as of equal importance to esach?

Prof Lewis Elton. Higher Education Research and Development Unit. University College London, 1-19 Torrington Place, London WCIE 6BT.

Journalists under fire over war pensions scandal

would try to justify the unnecessary and widespread alarm you managed to sow amongst war pensioners by your cob-bling together of partially-leaked documents (War pen-sions cover-up, December 5).

For you to suggest in your leader (December 20) that the figures in the answers to Parliamentary Questions on Monday are really what your correspondent was referring to in his story of £50 million "package of cuts in war pen-sions" is offensive sophistry. The Prime Minister and social security ministers

were at pains to make it clear that there were two separate issues: a package of simplifi-ication measures on which the Central Advisory Committee on War Pensions were already being consulted and new medical advice on hear-ing loss which Ministers were 79 Whitehall, legally, bound to accept. The veterans' organisations would have nothing to do We do not publish letters where with the Guardian's scare-

mongering and said so.
The statement in your leader that the Parliamentary Questions were released "when Parliament had risen and no MPs were around" is

SUPPOSE we should have simply untrue. The Questions would try to justify the unnector for answer on a named day. December 16, two full days be-fore Parliament rose. This is just another example of the blind man's bluff to which you treat your readers in-creasingly in the absence of

informed reporting.
Has your social services correspondent bothered to ask my department whether the figures contained in these answers were already in the public domain, or does he only believe things that turn up in plain brown envelopes? Clearly what irritates your correspondent is that the veterans' organisations who really understand the issue have not joined your ridiculous campaigning. Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish Minister of State for Social Security, London SWIA 2NS.

only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not

A Country Diary ------

years it was Arant Haw from Sedbergh, just giving us time to get back home for the the stile to the —nature Queen before the turkey, Christmas pudding and mince pies. Years before that it was often Helvellyn in the snow or, on the poor days — just to whip up an appetite — Loughrigg in the rain. But recently it has been Whitharrow or even Arnside Knott to Far Arnside and back along the shore cliffs. Christmas Day is not usually the best day for the outdoors for many reasons but Arant Haw on a frosty morning with nobody about and a bit of snow to heighten the effect - views far into the Yorkshire dales and perhaps the distant sound of church bells — was not a bad preparatelevision sprawling to follow. Last Christmas morning, with snow on the fells and ice on the pools, we went to Whitbarrow from Raven's Lodge, pausmg on the way up through the mg on the way up through the woods to look at ingleborough to the south-east, gleaming in the sunshine like a snow mountain in the Rockies.

THE LAKE DISTRICT: For | There were two elderly people sing in the snow and cask-ing in the warm sunshine by the stile to the —nature reserve. They wished us a merry Christmas and handed out mince ples — the only people we saw all morning. On the way down, we managed controlled slides down the black-water ice on the slabs just after the start and were back home in 20 minutes. Perhaps the most memorable outdoors Christmas Day was one 30 or 40 years ago, spent skat-ing on Tarn Hows. It froze hard all day, the sun blazed down from dawn to dusk and there was not a whisper of wind. The snow lay deep all round the tarn and there were snow cornices on Wetherlam. its white roof looming over the woods. We sketed for hours on perfect ice and at lunchtime kept our skates on and sat in the snow on a little promontory, eating turkey sandwiches and mince pies, washed down with a bottle of wine. Far, far better, we de-cided, than Christmas lunch in any smart hote A HARRY GRITTIN

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ber 19). There are two lodges primarily, but not exclusively, for MPs or people who work in and for Parliament, but they meet at Freemasons' Hall. One, New Welcome, was it was felt that Labour MPs might appreciate the chance of becoming Freemasons in a London lodge. It is ironic that some of their successors feel Grand Lodge of England, Freemasons' Hall,

Great Queen Street London WC2B 5AZ. MARTIN SHORT (Unsafe secret society, December 20) implies that Nell Thorne

42 Charter Avenue, Ilford, Essex IG2 7AB.



Just a new crop of problems

₩OU say that crops engl- | tivation is used as an argu neered for resistance to herbicide will allow less investment in chemicals (Gene swapping that engineers big returns, December 19). make sense. Surely the reason for increasing resis-

tance to herbicides is to allow greater quantities of such chemicals to be used without damaging the crop? As such it represents a step back-wards compared to more environmentally-friendly forms of weed control.

Secondly, the sceptre of Philip Ward.
population growth and 434 Grimesthorpe Road,
shrinkage of areas under culSheffield S4 8LE.

Aside from the fact that the European Union and other Western agencies pay farm-ers not to grow food crops, This does not appear to consideration must be given to the way farmland and crops are used.
This means not only the

ment for senetic engineering

fact that intensive agri-busi-ness methods exhaust the land, but also that meat production consumes vast amounts of grain which could be used for feeding people. Philip Ward.

Why I have got the shooters in my sights

Endpiece

Welwyn Garden City,

Herts ALS 6EY.

Roy Hatterslev

AUGH as plain men may, I have always be-lieved that civilised people ought to watch their language — just to make sure that it is politically correct. The long overdue, and still incomplete, emancipation of gay men and lesbian women would have come about even more slowly if decent society had failed to condemn the terms of abuse and contempt which, 20 years ago. were said to be banter that "poofs" and "dykes" should accept in good humour. Without respect, there can be no social equality. It is not possthle to call a man a "wog" or a Paki" and, at the same time, believe that he enjoys identi-cal rights to those which are exercised by his white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant neighbour.

I usually feel just the same

es them innately superior. to the female of the species. The problem is not that they lay on hands in an expression of sexual desire but as a statement of gender domination. Even as I write these unexceptional opinions. I can imagine a certain sort of man laughing behind his hand at the nonsense which is spouted by "wimmin's" groups and gen-erally used by liberationists with close cropped hair, battle fatigues and Doc Martens.

Since the critics of politically correct conduct feel so strongly about the need to defy the demands of fashionable causes. I hope that they will support me in my opposition to a new conformity which has, at least temporarily, relegated all other examples of proper verbal conduct to the second division of socially essential attitudes. It is currently necessary for all of us to be complimentary about members of gun clubs

women in a way which the laws which regulate their moving to a position in which reflects their masculinity normally believe that being male necessity for tighter gun con with one or two notable exceptrol can decently be made without a preface which is es-sentially a pason of unjustified praise. It is not enough to make the

obvious point that most gun club members are not homicidal maniacs or that "sports men" who stalk and shoot antmals are unlikely to progress into pathological misanthro-Every time someone proposes that Parliament should pro hibit the private ownership of hand guns or that sporting rifles should be kept in ar-mouries and not at home, an obeisance has to be made in the direction of men and women who enjoy the thrill of pulling the trigger. In modern folklore, they have become the sort of men our daughters would be lucky to marry, the type of woman we would be proud to bring up our sons, the kind of person we hope will manage our banks, lead our scout troops, captain our

tions, shooters are better than the rest of us. Well, not me. In this particular, I am happy to be num-bered in the ranks of the polit-

ically incorrect. Shooting is

in a mature society, such bizarre behaviour would be left to

the aristocracy

an extraordinary way to pass the time and find pleasure — atavistic at best and, at worst, the expression of a violent personality. Have you seen the targets that some of these law abiding gun clubs use? They are cardboard cut-outs of undesirables - muggers, urban guerrillas and terrorists.

beings is an encouragement to do the real thing. But it is a more offensive. The word that strange hobby. It would not be comes to mind is decadent. In right to prohibit it. However, a mature society, such bizarre there is no earthly reason why we should go on saying how much we admire people who fantasise about being Sergeant Yorke and Annie Oakley. I know very well that many

shooters do not waste their ammonition on inanimate targets but find their pleasure in killing rabbits, pheasant, grouse, partridge, duck, geese and dear. The editor of the and deer. The editor of the Daily Telegraph, writing in defence of Prince William having stag's blood smeared. stag's blood smeared on his stag's blood smeared on his face, seemed to think that there is something admirable the moors and shoot birds about creeping up on an unsus-pecting animal and blowing its brains out. But most people find the enjoyment of death

repulsive nouveau riche only buy their tweeds and rent their pieces of

grown-up man's body. I do not assert that the champagne and suggest for a second that shooting pictures of human the corpses are still warm a mature society, such bizarre behaviour would be left to the aristocracy and the Royal Family.

These days, I have my doubts about the morality of killing for food — but not about killing for fun. That has to be wrong. When I am told they are emotionally inadewhich have been specially bred for that purpose. Wild fowlers lie all night in boats on the Norfolk Broads, waiting for a chance to do grevious I know, of course, that the bodily harm to a duck. I will not call their behaviour perverse as long as I am not expecied to begin every comment on Dunblane and Hungerford with an assertion about how admirable most shooters are.

Freetown Diary

Claudia McElroy

F. more than 50 years
later, that naive colonialist Wilson, in Graham
Greene's novel The Heart Of
The Matter, could return to Freetown's "Bedford Hotel" he would need a succession of gin-and-bitters to quell his bewilderment.

The hotel — its proper name is the City Hotel — has a crumbling facade with a balustraded stair and a wide balcony, which may once have lent it an illusion of semi-elegance. But this now belies the dilapidated and rank interior. The near-perilous journey along dark, dusty corridors, carefully navigating holes in rotten floorboards and collapsed ceilings, leads to oms even more squalld

than Greene ever described. With peeling paint, mould, beds already occu-pied by various life-forms and no bar or restaurant, it is hard to imagine anyone willing to pay even the £2.50 it costs to stay for a night. Yet the hotel does have a modes turnover—a ragged clientele of drug-sellers, hustlers and prostitutes, many displaced by war from

the interior of the country. Should Wilson venture on to that rickety balcony from where he once viewed the city of Freetown, he would realise that it was not only the hotel that had fallen into decline. People and cars compete for space on the congested streets — which, despite attempts at repairs, remain full of potholes and malodorous open drains. Pavements are crammed with sellers of everything from native medicine to Zetters pools tickets, and with me changers, blind and lame beggars, and screaming, half-naked lunatics. Many over-zealous and underpaid police search for "care less" drivers and other

bribe-paying unfortunates. The bleak heart of the matter is that, since independence from Britain in 1961, Sierra Leone has been crippled by years of corrup tion, nepotism, mismanage-ment, political instability and economic decline. The final straw was the fiveyear civil war. Sierra Leone is now officially the second least developed nation on

"In the olden days, things actually worked here," said one dapper old gentlemen, queueing in the city post office in his Sunday best of three-piece tweed suit and trilby hat. "We had a good administration, the best and even a railway. All that has gone now. You hardly dare admit it, but some aspects of colonialism weren't all that bad."

Now Sierra Leoneans finally see a ray of hope, albeit a wavering one. The ci-vilian government of Presient Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, which came to power in March following the country's first democratic elec-tions in almost 30 years, recently signed a peace agreement with the leader-ship of the Revolutionary United Front, paving the way for the task of reconstruction and rehabilitation. The agreement, echoing the RUF's professed Marxist ideology, boldly promises equal opportuni-ties to all Sierra Leoneaus and improvements in the quality of life by every means from free schooling and health care to quality housing and rural

electrification. President Kabbah, a retired UN veteran, appears confident in the face of widespread scepticism over whether foreign donors will be ready to foot the pro-posed bill of US\$1.1 billion for a five-year recovery

programme. Yet neither money nor continuing reports of fighting in some areas seem to affect the almost-desperate optimism of some Sierra Leoneans. One resident of the City Hotel, an illicit diamond miner, is hopeful that there will soon be an upturn in his fortunes. "This peace agreement means that in 1997 Sierra Leone will once again enter a golden age... For the last five years I have not had a nice Christmas or New Year, but this year will be different. Now we all have a reason to celebrate."

Wilson spent his fictional Christmas 55 years ago (during the second world war) in his dinner suit and cummerband, sipping gin cocktails. But he and the present hotel residents share one thing in common: a hope that the the war will end and then they can return home.



You want for us to stay cool, already?

Commentary

Linda Grant

Y grandfather would ask: "You would ask: "You want for me to sit down?" It was ungrammatical, though the substitution of "wish" for "want" would have made it sound regal, rather than the broken English it really was.
My grandfather's control of

the language of his adopted country was minimal. Both my parents had grown up speaking Yiddish at home, their voices saturated with its their voices saturated with its thought processes. I learned early that "I want you to be happy" meant one thing, but "I only want for you to be happy" was a sentence of menacing specificity, containing underneath it the unspoken, and hence more effectively transmitted thought. tively transmitted thought: "But when I am dead and in my grave, I hope you'll remember that you broke your mother's heart." I also understood that by turning every sentence into a

question you could imply in-credulity and, by emphasis-

ing different words, alter its

wrong? I should apologise?"
So this was a household where vestiges of Yiddish language constructions were retained in our everyday speech and had to be carefully eliminated in such public are

nas as school. And I still pre-serve fragments of a language I never really learned to speak, and I occasionally find myself producing from my mental dictionary a Ynddish word which has eagerly pre-sented itself for use in a sensented itself for use in a sentence crying: "Me, me. I am what you were looking for."

The other day mensch abruptly popped into my head, literally meaning man, broadly implying human being, but taking in ideas about a person of intelligence, and integrity who honesty, and integrity who nevertheless will never be-come a millionaire or run off with your wife. I find this

more effective in its multiple meanings than the English version, "a safe pair of In Oakland, California last In Oakland, California last week, a school board contro-varsially decided to introduce Ebonics instead of standard English as the primery lan-guage of its 28,000 black stu-dents. Ebonics, a portman-teau word combining chony and phonics, is a vernacular which linguistic achologe. which linguistic scholars have said preserves syntacti-cal patterns from the African languages which black slaves first spoke in America. Exam-

'I want everything, now,' says

programmes on children's TV.

David McKie is visited by the

the spirit of a culture of desire

ghost of Christmas present and

four-year-old Sarah, as she

watches the ads and the

'I was right? You were the verb to be, as in "He a fine fellow or the lack of a subect-verb agreement - "She love the dog."

The school board argues

that black students are discriminated against and mar-ginalised by their use of non-atandard English, making them sound illiterate, so they are oppressed not only by race but also the way they speak. The response in Oakland has been mixed. Some students have dismissed black vernacular as no more

than slang, street talk.
Some academics, however, have spoken of a group of languages between Accra and Lagos which they believe are the roots of black American speech. They denounce the "linguistic imperialism" which imposes a single, rigid. correct canon.

That language is in a con-tinuous state of flux and transformation is obvious to all those but the pedants who think that they are ones who made the rules. David Wil-lets's attempts to set away with using the word "want" in a pre-20th-century manner to imply a lack rather than a need, shows how a slippery customer can use the slipperi-ness of meanings to his own ends. Willets thinks it makes him look more literate, not less, to use a word in an ar-chaic manner. To others, it was proof he was a crook. The Oakland school board should also take heart from

by different classes and in dif-ferent parts of the country.

The working class genera-tion that was first able to take

advantage of the 1944 Education Act's promise of free grammar school and university places would later remember their sense of shame when they were humiliated by teachers for their use of regional dialect and non-standard

It rendered them, one told me, literally speechless in class, too ashamed to put their hand up when they knew the answer to a question. They knew how to write

The New York beats copied their expressions from the era of their youth, the forties be-bop jazz scene

in a way that would get them through exams, they had formal language. But when they opened their gobs they talked as everyone around them at home did. It was habit.

Welcome the vernacular, the unusual, the vibrant, the vivid and the strange whenever and wherever you hear it. Language without idiom and rule-breaking is like food without tasts or flowers without colour. And rather the language of James Joyce than of John Birt. For if anyone is guilty of making language incomprehensible,

you really don't know what they're talking about. We used to have personnel

officers. Now we've got human resource management directors, as if they were blowing up the little balloons of their selves to make them look as big and as important as possible. It is a fine example of the way elites unilaterally create their own lan-guages to exclude others. No grammatical pedantry there, when it suits them.

Every group has its own forms of speech and we are, all the time, exchanging gobbets of our verbal selves with each other as, in the sixties, languid English hippies cooking lentil messes in Welsh communes used expressions borrowed from Californian hippies, who got them from the New York beats, who copied them from the era of their community the Carties he have own youth, the forties be-bop

didn't reappear again until

One of the joys of talking is making languages that are not mutually exclusive or accredited with a certificate of social authorisation. And so there's nothing wrong with the black schoolchildren of every chance they can of being bilingual. Why replace Wasp standard English with African-American standard English? To hell with

the home of English, differing forms of linguistic construction continue. A few old-timers in Yorkshire still use thee and thou; the numerous mealtime confusions about tea and dinner and supper remind us that words are not ascribed the same meanings by different classes and in different classes kitchen now



Ros Coward

to cook? Apparently not Although we are bom-barded with explicit television programmes showing other people doing it, and the bookshops are groaning with isaz scene, man.

Which, when you think of it, is prelity cool, as the be-bop guys also used to say — but that skipped the sixties and with Christmas almost

upon us, all that will have to change. Since we now celebrate The Meal rather than The Birth, the planning and execution of the perfect Christmas meal is probably the most important ritual in our irreligious culture, Maga California hanging on to imagery encouraging the whatever they have left of a distant mother tongue. But props. Women who might normally fake a headache to guages and the best advice one can offer them is to take fetishists counting down to

> The importance of the Christmas meal is only the culmination of the general significance which food has assumed in our culture. The time spent cooking may be declining, but the time spent thinking about food is steadily increasing. Culinary light-years have passed since Elizabeth David gently chided the British for limited horizons and low arousal rates. Stranded amidst the rationing and exhaustion of postwar Britain, she fantasised about the food and lifestyles of the Mediterranean.

> Now we live in the world of David's gastro-erotic imagination. There are cookery books about every national cuisine, writers who write seductively about food, and publishers who anthologise their prose in bite-sized chunks. Televi-sual binges feature in day-Affluence, travel and in-creased leisure allowed cook-

purely functional or gently literary. Visual stimulation, with close-ups and exotic settings, added extra frissons. Now food stylists, using glycerine, emphasise the perfect climax, rather than the messy business of getting there. The book epitomises this de-signer-led approach to food. always threatens to degenerate into the sweaty, unsightly process of work that it is. But

nary women who still do most of the cooking and domestic work, but the new stars: the chefs. Every channel boasts a dipsomaniac doing exotic things with mangoes. The main ingredients for a successful TV chef are the size of the personality and the shill. the personality and the abil-ity to create authored food food in a recognisable indi-vidual style. Chefs are the drag queens of the nineties, doing what women do rou-tinely, but dressing it up,

making it a performance.

There is a lot resting on these chefs. They have to restimulate flagging interest, the detumescent appetite con-fronted with E.coli, salmonella and BSE. For the Marx ist Lentilists have been proved right, and politics has entered the kitchen. The chefs have to be like wizards turning dross to gold by an alchemic process. They have to transform our basic food spoiled and degraded — into a meal which can inspire us. meal which can inspire us.
The chefs make this transformation look spectacular and fun, without drawing attention to the famale drudgery which usually lies behind it. No wonder women only spend half an hour a day in the kitchen. The spectacularity and see the spectacularity and see the spectacularity of see the spectacularity and see the second seed to the seed of sation of cooking has driven them out. The excessive emphasis on the performance of cooking and the presentation of the food discourages women who have to do the domestic labour. No one could possibly hope to achieve the panache and appearance of food which has been produced by a team of specialists and someone to clear up afterwards. Real meals don't become easier

O WHEN Christmas arrives with its annual ritual of The Meal, women do not look to the male tele-chefs. Then, like the return of the repressed, out come the copies of Delia Smith's Christmas. Delia is television's anti-chef sonality. Compared with Elizabeth David or Claudia Rodin with their insight into other cultures, she is a dreary writer. But with good visual props and a recognisable domestic setting, she alone brings the old functional inine domesticity into the new visual specia

with the chefs' help, but more

more likely to disappoint.

Delia survives in the world of culinary drag artists bereal kitchens are largely un-reconstructed. Her recipes Domestically impractical work, and there are times recipes are the bench-mark of when cooking can no longer put it: "Your check, sir — on a bed of polenta." On television, the spectacle of control of the many other social rituals, women are left to do the many other social rituals. the planning and most of the work. Then, as in other important areas, women prefer someone who does the busithis real work never appears. ness, rather than brags about Television's kitchen it. A cook, rather than a chef. ness, rather than brags about

The engine of envy

day morning too cold for the park. Thank goodness, there's children's television to keep Sarah, aged 4, enter-tained. A whole bour of dependable Disney sounds just isn't, as it transpires, the car toons which rouse Sarah to the

highest excitement.
It's the ads. It is all one can do to detach her nose from the screen and maneouvre her chair back to safe watching distance. There are videos to be had featuring dinosaurs. and building systems, and, above all, there are Barbie dolls. After each, the respons is the same: "I want THAT." But you can't have every-

thing, Serah. A moment ago it was dinosaurs: now it's Cinderella's castle ... But Sarah has a ready and logical answer. "That" — chubby fin-ger pointing to Cinderella's castle — "le what I want now." It isn't only the advertised merchandise, either. The equivalent of the hour's editorial content - the basic Dis-

world happy, but it's equally there to milk the spin-off potential. Here are children says Sarah. "No doubt you will one day... "I begin. "Can't I go now? Can't you take me served insult to those thou-

culties in this course, even were it desirable, when Sarah doll on the screen.

THROUGHOUT the recession. politicians of the left, if that's still an appropriate term, have argued that rising crime is only to be expected when so many are condemned to live without work or prospect of work, when there's no longer any visible route out of pov-erty. Politicians of the right give or take the odd acknowledgment which escaped from the odd Kenneth Clarke before anyone got there to smother him — have denied it. Research has been paraded: other research, supporting conclusions which ministers would rather not see sup-ported, has been snavely

suppressed. But throughout, the right has countered with a response apparently designed to sugg that they are the true defenders of the poor and the unem-ployed, while those on the left who claim to support them patronise and demean them. Go back, they say, to the rial content — the BESIC DESTRUCTION TO SHAPE OF THE PROPERTY AND ASSESSED OF THE DISNEY Corporation may be there to make the world happy, but it's equally they were, the victims of recession continued to honour the much like Sarah having the law and the rights of others.

Therefore to argue now that Therefore to argue now that the poor and the unemployed

tions, and also, of course, to a standard of government welfare provision which has given the unemployed standards of twenties would have looked on

That, at least, was an aren

ment which those who be-lieved in the link between unemployment and crime had to stop and think about. If cause and effect didn't work this way in the twenties and thirties why should they do so now? But then: in the twenties and thirties they didn't have televi-sion, and they didn't have GMTV on Saturday morning offering children like Sarah a whole consumer agenda around which you could frame your Christmas demands. Clearly, the poor of the twen-ties and thirties were aware that others lived lives of ease and opulence, while theirs was

all struggle. UT children didn't grow up with this engine in the sitting room corner, rubbing it in hour by hour. They didn't on a Saturday morning see children much like themselves up on a screen, taking for granted possessions which might

never be theirs.
They weren't confronted with any equivalent of romping dalmatians, available in replica from McDonalds, one inside every happy meal box
— yours, if you can only persnade mum and dad to take you for a burger 101 times. Or family turmoil if g the new console game, as stincts are choked.

for the child who's already got a personal CD, a TV in the bedroom, a computer, and most of the old console games. You see it you want it and if you don't get it, there will be others at school that will. Five Barbles is no longer enough, when Semantha has seven and Emily nine. There is nothcians despise quite as much as envy: but what else can one expect when such powerful engines, programmed to gen-erate envy, are stationed in every home?

The pressures all this creates are abundantly docu-mented. Research published last week showed that parents in poorer localities spent more on their children at Christmas than those in well-heeled suburbs, and not just on a relative basis: in real terms, too. The average parent in somewhere like Knowsley lashed out while the average parent in somewhere like Richmond-on-Thames was full of cautious

No doubt someone by now has started work on a pam-phlet for the Social Affairs Foundation condemning this as yet one more demonstra-tion of the hopeless improvidence of those who claim on the state. And yet it is hardly surprising. The more miserable your children's condition through the rest of the year, the stronger the temptation to try to make it up to them on this one special day. And the greater, too, the prospect of family turnoil if generous instincts are choked

from thousands of other four-year-olds. The god-daughter of extra sophistication, not only announcing "I want that," but adding "gvallable at all good toyshops". When wishes are asked for at a church chil-dren's Christmas party, the first two respondents make plous responses: peace for the world, and recovery for all sick children in hospital. But num-ber three wants a Barbie doll; and after that, anything goes.
It is part of their culture:
part of the culture which we create for them. Through the Thatcher years "I want it, I'm going to have it" was a statement of almost religious significance. Such attitudes were a stre and non of economic pros-

perity, destined to benefit not

only richly-rewarded thrusters

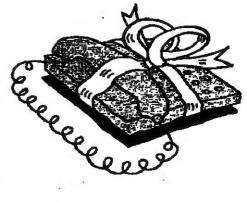
but all of us, even the poor, as

wealth trickled down.

Even now, there are those eager to remind us that the whole point of staging Christmas at all is to give people things to want. Some have complained this year that most Advent calendars have nothing to do with the birth of Christ. But that is outdated thinking. As David Hamilton chairman of Link Licensing which markets the Barbie calendar, told the Sunday Times, other characters are not really different to images of Christ-"It does not matter whether it is Barbie or the little Lord Jesus, it is the process of opening the windows in anticipa-tion of Christmas that is im-

portant." I really must ask her

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PRODES 11

A singular man of the Islands

ORMAN Le nists and trade unionists, ran an extremely dangerous died aged 74, was pamphleteering operation a remarkable with digests of BBC news and man, the only allegations of corruption in the Jerita island government. Print the island government. Print the island government. Print shunned by fellow members, but one dividing the way respect, but one dividing the most property. Communist deputy in the Jer-the island government Print sey parliament through much runs were about 300-400. Even of the cold war. In the conservative political culture of the Channel Islands, he stoutly remained a radical all his life, yet his integrity and sincerity won him many admirers even among those who most vehe German sarrison. among those who most vehe- German garrison. . mently disagreed with his ideological views. Ultimately the plans came

ideological views.

His commitment to the less well-off in one of the richest communities in Europe was unwavering during more a gold watch from the Soviet government; from the British than 50 years of political ac-tivism. He espoused many causes long before they begovernment and the island administration, he received came fashionable, and served Jersey and its interests on no recognition. innumerable committees and charitable bodies. For this life, he was a superb source of informabrave participation in the

tion on the occupa-tion, patiently helpresistance networks during the second world war ing dozens of journalists and documentary-makers to grasp something of its complexity. occupation by the Germans always recounted with great modesty — he become a Jer-Invariably, people appreci-ated his refreshing bluntness: sey legend.
Unlike the men who have traditionally dominated Channel Island politics, Nor-Le Brocq was a proud and devoted Jerseyman but that didn't stop him criticising the man Le Brocq was not born into a wealthy or powerful family and achieved his influwartime record of the island government and his fellow ence through hard work and determination. Nothing was ever easy. He won a scholar-He was a rare islander for

talking honestly about the seamy, less than honourable side of the occupation - collaboration, black marketeer-ing and informing.

He first stood for the States the Jersey parliament, in 1945 when he was a member of the rs preferred to keep their — a political group calling for leads down Le Brocq, with a widespread political reform

1979. was a mine of useful

information. He was on the

editorial board of Opera maga-

As a translator, his work

zine from 1962 until his death.

was fluent and witty, which

explains why he was asked to turn into English as many as

respect the original text but

never slavishly so and wrote

one libretto of his own, to

Maw's opera One Man Show.

Perhaps his greatest love,

among many, was Russian

born and bred, studying at the

famous Grammar School from

where he went to Merton,

Oxford, thence to the army

before he started his career

He also became an eminent

teacher at the Royal Academy

after the war.

Le | nists and trade unionists, ran | tration over collaboration As a working stonemason he had to take time off to sit in donations from his support-ers to maintain his family. For the next 21 years he was in and out of the States.

serving on several key com-mittees, always passionately interested in the island's development and in particular the environment. He was a Trust for Jersey and always claimed that one of the achievements of which he was most proud was blocking Isle of Man TT-type motorcy cle racing coming to one of the prettlest parts of Jersey. Fishing limits with France and agricultural pollution

He retired from the States in 1987 and pursued his interremaining president of the Channel Island Co-operative Society, from 1968-95.

icy was evident only recently when he joined a review group set up this year under the auspices of the United Nations' International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, to look at Jersey's parish welfare system. He leaves a wife, Rosalie, and three

Badeleine Bunting

of Music (1964-79) and then



Honesty and integrity ... Norman Le Brocq, who devoted his life to the Channel Islands

Arthur Jacobs

ship to Victoria College and

as a precociously bright teen-ager became a Communist —

During the 1940-45 Nazi oc-

cupation, while many island-

ers preferred to keep their

Delighting in the detail

O one among the fraternity of music writers had such an encyclopaedic mind or such a command of facts and figures as Arthur Jacobs, who has died of cancer at the age of which he edited from 1971 to Nothing escaped his gaze, which made him an ideal compiler of reference books and an excellent biographer. He is sure to be remembered for his biographies of the composer Sir Arthur Sullivan (1984) and the conductor Sir Henry Wood (1994), which in each case brought the subject

Jacobs first came to public attention as a very young and challenging critic on the Daily Express. For instance, his dis like of Brahms was made contributed well-informed criticism to a number of newspapers, among them the Sun-day Times, Sunday Telegraph and Financial Times, although his sometimes idiosyncratic views may have kept him from ever again becom-ing a regular critic. That was probably the public's gain, for t meant that his immense industry could be channelled into the translations and which he became involved. Seminal among them was the Penguin Dictionary of Music, which was published in 1958 and ran into many revised editions, the most recent ap-pearing only this year. He managed to include a wealth of information in a comparatively small amount of pages. For Penguin he also edited Choral Music (1960), which covered the whole gamut of choral works through the

He also compiled, with Stan- | Illuminating enthusiasm ... Arthur Jacobs, eminent musicologist

head of music at Huddersfield Polytechnic (later University), which made him professor. He was latterly visiting scholar at Wolfson College, Oxford, a good base for his writing

offen deliberately argumenta-tive writer and speaker. He loved to challenge received opinions and liked nothing so much as to disconcert a reader or colleague with an outlandish view. Yet he was also generous to a fault and an absolute fanatic in the matter of giving the young the where-withal to improve themselves. with an enthusiasm for his subject that communicated itself to his audience. He is survived by his wife and their two sons.

Alan Bivis

was a musicological Marx Brother, wild-eyebrowed, enthusiastic, candid, lunging into rooms and leaning against furniture at a 45 degree angle. I worked for him on the British Music Yearbook, which he invented: it listed musicians and musical organisations, and was bought, borrowed or stolen by everyone in the business. Hardly his most glamorous source of income. Still he brought it alive with his passion for accuracy, not a neurating belief that information is history and history is

rial competence: but logical, because he took the skilful marshalling of data to be one of the hallmarks of civilised life. Later, as England got nas-tier, the publishers realised that the book would still sell if reduced to the most basic listing of names and addresses, renewed by an automatic mailing, and Arthur lost

The job interview: all I remember is Arthur looking at my CV and saying, "Do you actually read German? Read this," and me reading it and Arthur giving me the job.
"How much German will I
need?" I asked "Well," said Arthur, "none, but people are always saying they know Ger-man and they don't." He liked words to be true dealings to be straight and people to treat each other affectionately,

without pulling rank. Knowledgeable and opinionted but not pompous, he rated his opinions below the useful facts he collected. He never ceased to put service before self-promotion.

Arthur Jacobs, musicologist, born June 14, 1922; died

Peter Hall

helpful. "She's good!" he'd say beamingly of some proof-reader who'd found an extra mistake. It was amazing, the satisfaction he got from edito-

T the funeral of the mu-sician and folklorist aged 60. Bach's Double Con-certo for Violin in D Minor was played first — and last. In his fine culogy Peter's friend Sandy Hobbs explained how

His mother came from the North-east of Scotland and his father from north-east England where Peter was schooled. In 1955 he went to Aberdeen University initially to read medicine. After national ser-vice he read for a science degree, trained as a teacher and taught physics. Teaching was his day job,

but he was soon caught up in

the amazing world of north-

east Scottish song. Peter was socialist, a humanist and a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament activist. Out of all these strands came songs and singers which resonated for him, with similarly radical songs from the past. He played several instruments, sang, and befriended singers like Lizzie Higgins and Jimmy Macbeath. in 1967 he set up the Gaugers group, which performed the music of the region, and released two albums in the 1970s. He was a founder member of the Aberdeen Folk Club, wrote for many magazines, was the original editor of the folk magazine Chapbook, and collected music from the people of the region. His tape recordings of song and six encompassed more than 600 works. In 1985 he finished his master's thesis, Folk Songs of North East Form Servants in the 19th Century, which is still, regrettably unpublished.

But out of this came his continuous in the Century of the Century

editing in 1987 of the Greig Duncan Collection for which he also provided the introduction. The 3,500-song collection was



Full of folk ... Peter Hall, devoted scholar

schoolmaster, Gavin Greig, and has been in Aberdeen University since the beginning of the century. Those of us who could not imagine how we could ever get it into print and provide it with the recognition which it deserved, were achast when Robert Maxwell bought Aberdeen University Press. The story of its triumphant publication, through many people's efforts, deserves

book in itself. Peter came most strongly into my life when my busband. Norman Buchan, set out on his second collection of Scottish song. The first, 101 Scottish Songs, had been a nightmare in transcribing, from the singer to the notation required for the printed page. So Nor-man asked Peter to come to his rescue, and he agreed to be co-editor of *The Scottish Folli-*singer. Peter's skill and musi-cality in taking the grace notes with which traditional singers embroidered their sung ver-

and hear. He was also just as interested in the fact that my tran-driving father played the con-certina in a band which rehearsed in a wash-house. The re-emergence of the concertina as an acceptable acwas a great pleasure to talk with him about. And if music — classical, folk, jazz — was a major part of Peter's life and what he gave to it, then laugh-ter didn't come far behind. In 1959 he married Marion Macleman, who became an eminent Aberdeen gynaecologist. She and their children have lost a warm loving husband and father. We have all lost a friend, and traditional music has lost an able and deported scholar.

devoted scholar.

Peter Hall, folklorist and musician, born June 28, 1936; died December 5, 1996

but through events of his or her life (Elizabeth Taylor); Hybrid Celebrity, in which

both the someone's care

Alexander Kelly

who has died aged 67, devoted most of his life to teaching music, but as a solo pianist he gave many first performances around the world, including Peter Wi-

shart's Piano Concerto. He was brought up in Edia-burgh and started to learn the plano at the age of four. At 16 Royal Academy of Music and studied under Harold Caxton. After national service with the Army Education Corps -

where he managed to con-tinue his studies by finding an isolated room with a piano for hours without disturbing cluding Maureen Lehane and Duncan Robertson, and per-formed extensively in piano trios and quartets, and violin and cello sonatas. His solo career included a CPE Bach concerto under Beecham at the Royal Festival Hall and Beethoven's Diabelli Varia-

Academy of Music in 1960 as a head of keyboard studies in 1984. He believed that the priformance skills of young musicians and disagreed with growing frustration by the time of his 1994 retirement. In 1979 he surprised those

closest to him by entering the Roman Catholic church; he said he had been pushed into wrote poetry, and *Visitations*, which he originally published in Dublin in 1986, has been

dicating at piano competitions, giving masterclasses on Classic FM and teaching at home. His last concert recital - Schubert and Beethoven was this October in Ipswich with the cellist, Nicholas

ret, a distinguished cellist, and two daughters. Music

Alexander Kelly, planist and teacher, born June 30, 1929; died

63; Michele Alboreto, racing driver, 40; Christine Bicknell, former chairman, Civil Service Selection Boards, 77; Sir Norman Biggs, banker, Robert Bly, American men's writer, 70: Peter Davis, former chairman, Reed International, 55; Maurice Denham, actor, 86; Luther Grosvenor, rock guitarist, 47; John Guinness, chairman, British Nuclear Fuels, 61; Yousuf Karsh, portrait photographer, 88; Graham Kelly, chief executive, the Football Association, 51; Prof Peter Lachmann, president, Royal College of Pathologists, 65; Belinda Lang, actress, 43; Christopher Lawrence, silversmith, 60; Judy Leden, hang-glider, 37; Helmut Schmidt, former Chancellor, West Germany, 78; Queen Silvia of Sweden, 53.

Death Notices

In Memoriam

Birthdays

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Jackdaw



Double crossed

IN February 1995 Mrs Ruksana Patel of Bolton became convinced that Allah would provide a special message for her to demonstrate how He was involved in the whole natural world. Her faith was rewarded when she bought an aubergine from a local mobile shop and on cutting it open, discovered the seeds spelled out the phrase "Ya-Allah" (Allah exists) in Arabic, Before long the allegedly divine vegetable was attracting about 50 pilgrims a day. Mrs Patel planned to leave the aubergine on display at her local mosque for a few weeks, after which it would be shared out among

the faithful and eaten raw.
Every Good Friday the vil-lage of San Fernando in the Philippines tolds a re-enact ment of Christ's crucifixion. Local catholics allow themselves to be nailed to crosses for a brief period of painful but devout penance. This year Shinichiro Kaneko from Japan asked to join the cere mony, in the hope that his sufring would persuade God to heal his critically ill younger brother. San Fernando's

church agreed. But Mr Kaneko was not a believer and had no sick relatives needing divine assistance. He was a pornographic actor specialising in sadomas ochistic roles, and his cruxifixion is to be released on video. The Fortean Times Weird Year 1996 rounds up a few of the odder religious stories prov-ing the miracle Madonna on the unindow vision in Clearwater, Florida is no newcomer.

Dog tale

By THE time I was nine I had been lobbying hard for a dog

I would outgrow this longing given enough time. I could see this hope in their eyes and it steeled my resolve, intensified my desire. What did I want for Christmas? A dog. What did I want for my birthday? A dog. What did I want on my ham sandwich? A dog. It was a deeply satisfying look of exasperation they shared at such moments, and if I couldn't have a dog, this was the next best thing. Life continued in this fash-

ion until finally my mother made a mistake, a doozy of a blunder born of emotional exhaustion and despair. She would have preferred a happy child. One spring day after I'd been badgering her pretty relentlessly, she sat me down and said, "You know a dog is something that you earn." My ather heard this, got up, and left the room, grim acknowl-edgment that my mother had just conceded the war. Her idea was to make the dog conditional. The conditions to be imposed would be numerous and severe and I would be in-capable of fulfilling them, and so when I didn't get the dog it would be my own fault. This

was her logic, and the fact that she thought such a plan might work illustrates that some people should never be parents and she was one of them. I immediately put into practice a plan of my own to

wear my mother down. Un-

like hers, my plan was simple and flawless. Mornings I woke up talking about dogs and nights I fell asleep talking about them. When my mother and father changed the subject, I changed it back. "Speaking of dogs," I would say, a forkful of my mather's roast poised at my lips, and l'd be off again. Maybe no one had been speaking of dogs but never mind, we were speaking of them now. At the library I checked out half a dozen books on dogs every two weeks and left them lying open around the house. I ointed out dogs we passed on the street, dogs on television, dogs in the magazines my mother subscribed to. I discussed the relative merits of various breeds at every meal My father seldom listened to anything I said, but I began to see signs that the underpin-nings of my mother's personality were beginning to corrode in the salt water of my tidal persistence and when I judged that she was nigh to complete collapse I took every penny of the allowance

money she had been saving and spent it on a dazzling bejewelled dog-collar-andleash set at the overpriced pet store around the corner. Richard Russo writing in the New Yorker on terrible tactics for obtaining the desired present, something many parents around the country must be experiencing now.

Néver names

TURKEY Trot, Arkansas. Slapout, Alabama (a one-stor e/post office combination, at a cross roads). Rooster Poot, Mississippi. Elephant Butte, NM. Hooker Ridge, Hunt Co., Texas (there was an earlier settlement called Old Hooker Ridge. The Cemetery Sign there is "Old Hooker John Whiney & Juanita Sug-

gins provide a few of the more bizarre places you might want to send a postcard home from.

Fame game

rity culture has resulted in a continuum in which three states of celebrity are pos ible: there's Franchise Celeb rity in which the celebrity capitalises on the brand value of his or her name (Sylrester Stallone); Conceptual Celebrity, in which a person gains fame not through work

and life contribute to their celebrity (President Clinton and Mrs Clinton). In a year sandwiched between the finish of the OJ Simpson criminal trial and the start of the wrongful-death suit filed by the families of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman against the former football star, the top 20 of the

Observer 500 suggests that. New Yorkers are giving a lot of thought to morality these days. In a celebrity-obsess entertainment-driven society "celebrity is completely amoral," said Mr Gabler. "The only things we value are those that provide entertainment value. "It doesn't make any differ-

ence whether you're OJ Simpson, Timothy McVeigh or Jack Nicholson. So long as you're entertaining us, that's all we care about. If you stop entertaining us, then we stop caring about you."

in absolute terms, yes, both

who allegedly blew up a federal office building in Oklahoma can achieve a form of celebrity, but the public — and the press — is drawn to them in different ways. And that is why there is more than one facet to the fame game. At a very basic level, "we're talking about the cul-tural stock value of names," explained Douglas Rushkoff, a media theorist and author of the book Media Virus. And the stock value of a name is directly proportionate to the number of hits you'll get doing a nexus search on them." The New York Observer defining the fame phenomena for us in their annual famous New as in their cuntual famous New York top 500. The top five this year being President Bill Clin-ton, Madonna (singer), John F Kennedy Jr. O.J Simpson and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdow@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-718 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London ECIR SER.

the star of Emma and the man | Emily Sheffield

The Guardian Monday December 23 1996

Alexanderk :

صكذا من الاعل

Shop-till-you-drop tendency goes to polls



Larry Elliott

LAN BUDD, the chief economist at the Treasury, has his own rule of vhat's going on in Britain's shopping malls. At the depth of the early-1990s recession, found that although the Lakeside centre in Essex was

Budd's law — It's the number of bags not the number of ple that count - came to mind last week on a visit to a wine merchant in London's West End. A customer marched in and asked for two bottles of a rare 30-year-old single malt whisky, "No, make it three", he said. "Why not?"

To an economy watcher, was interesting about this little episode was not so much the cost — the bill came to a whopping £269 — but the why not?

Of course, it's just one incldent in a place far from representative of the country as a whole. But three or four years ago, there was no "why notting" going on anywhere by

These days, the ratio of lead to a mismatch between bags to consumers certaintly demand and supply. seems to have gone up a bit. dency is vital for the economy's prospects in 1997, and it are right to be warning of a may still have a bearing on | rise in inflation. The money

Consumer spending will be most 11 per cent a year, real the driving force behind personal disposable incomes growth next year and if con-sumers are "why notting" from inverness to Penzance, it could mean that the economy will expand even faster than the 3.5 per cent expected

by the Government. The Treasury believes that growth rates of 3.5 per cent next year and 3.0 per cent in 1998 are feasible because there is still some slack in the economy, amounting to around 1.5 per cent of GDP. This will be used up by the expansion of the next two years, after which the economy will settle back to its longterm trend of 2.5 per cent.

There are those who think this is just a bit too pat. For a start, there is no real evidence yet that the economy's long-term trend growth rate has picked up to 2.5 per cent as a result of the supply-side Government claims. Second.

estimating the stack in the economy — the so-called output gap — is a very imprecise science. It may be that the economy is already running at full capacity; certainly the British chambers of commerce are starting to expense. merce are starting to com-plain of skills shortages.

The pessimists draw paral-lels with 1987, a pivotal year for the economy. At the time, it seemed that everything was at last going right for the Gov-ernment after a distinctly sticky patch at the start of the decade. Growth was strong, inflation low and unemployment coming down at a rate of knots. There were signs of overheating as the year wore on — house prices and the current account, in particular but few people paid them any heed. The Conservatives won the June election by more than 100 seats

Ten years on, and the economy is again in a benien phase of an upswing, with un-employment falling, growth above trend, inflation low, and house prices starting to climb. Of course, there are differences. Privatisation is no longer the force it was, earnings growth is weaker and, as things stand, it is Labour rather than the Con-servatives who are on course for a landalide election win.

But, make no mistake, 1997 is going to be a key year. It will test whether there really has been a sea change in Britain's economic performance or merely a short-lived inter lude before the age-old prob-lems of capacity shortages

There are plenty supply is expanding by al rose by 4.6 per cent in the year to the third quarter, and CBI expects manufacturers to push up their prices in the

In some ways, these misgivings are well founded. Even without the windfalls from building society mergers, we should expect consumption to be strong in 1997, particularly since a fall in the savings ratio, triggered by low infla-

tion and falling memploy-ment, looks long overdue. The Chancellor's Budget forecast for consumption may prove to be a little conservative and it would be no surprise if it turned out to grow by 5 rather than 4 per cent.

The other component of de-mand that may show a sharp increase is investment. Ad-mittedly, this requires a leap of faith. Every year since the recession ended, the Trea-sury's Red Book has been pre-



Figures released on Friday showed that manufacturing investment down 1.6 per cent in the third quarter and 15.8 per cent over the year.

TAND SMANNES

But with the likelihood of above-trend growth in 1997 and 1998, the long-awaited into begin. The British corporate sector is never very clever about the timing of investment, preferring to lash out at the peak of activity rather than in downswings. rather than in downswings. Shows, the UK only booms What is more, on past form, it is unlikely to last. In 1988, for example, the

means that price rises must be set to accelerate also. Well, not necessarily.

As the economists at UBS point out in their recent oversterling has "admininstered a large degree of tightening

What is more, on past form, it when the rest of the world Roger Bootle, newly ap-sumlikely to last. does. In 1988, for example, the pointed to the Treasury's But with consumption and US expanded by 3.75 per cent, panel of "wise people".

dicting a surge in investment investment likely to be higher and every year the hopes than earlier expected, surely, have proved groundless.

Figures released on Friday investment likely to be higher and every year the hopes than earlier expected, surely, and France by 4.5 per cent. It would be a miracle if any of means that price rises must that trio managed a similar of sterling on the level of activity. performance in 1997.

Nor is there any indication. at least not yet, that con-sumer spending is out of con-trol. At the moment it is running at only half the annual rate - 7.5 per cent - that it reached during the Lawson

Finally, the 10 per cent ap preciation in the value of the pound this year has adminis-tered considerable monetary tightening to the economy

So, some predictions then. Growth next year will be at least as strong as expected, and perhaps a bit higher. Inflation will end the year above its 25 per cent target, but not by that much, largely because base rates will be raised in the new year and

early summer. The first real signs that demand is skewed too heavily towards consumption will come from the current account, where the initially mismatch between demand

A time of annual celebration even

beneficial effect of the strong pound on export prices will wear off during 1997. John Major and Kenneth

Clarke will have an easier time of it over the next few months than Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. The Conservative case in the run-up to the election will be that the sacrifices have been worth it, unemployment is coming down fast, inflation is low, raised in the new year and house prices are picking up, again in the late spring or and it's time to feel good

again. For all its validity, Labour's case is more difficult to make.
The economy does have the deep-seated problems of a

and capacity and a structural budget deficit, but the real cure is several more years of fiscal austerity, in which higher taxes replenish the Treasury coffers and release money for urgently needed public investment.

In the end — and here's the last prediction — it may not matter. Budd's law applies to politics as well. There may be hordes of people milling about telling opinion pollster that they will vote Labour, but will they actually do so on the day? Local government polls suggest that when it comes, the general election will be a lot closer than most

How government should put a brake on the housing cycle

Debate

Peter Kenway and Guy Palmer

ECENT newspaper comment has celebrated the fact that years, while experts are advising people to trade up since 1997 will see the market rise again. Great news — but

what happens next? So much of the comment is depressingly short-term, and ignores history. The evidence of the last 25 years shows conof the last 25 years shows con-clusively that the housing revolution in the retail fimarket moves in cycles. The recovery will be followed by a downturn some time before

the turn of the century. This is — or should be — a major problem of social policy since 85 per cent of households with working heads own their home. The number repossessions in the 1990s is likely to approach 400,000. di-rectly affecting about one million people - a major indictment of government policy.
Much of the cost of this market failure fails on the public purse through the social

housing sector and housing benefits, so there is an eco-nomic as well as a social welfare imperative to act. Since the early 1990s just under 10 per cent of council rehousings have been to families repossessed, and private rent allowances have soared.

Low inflation means when the market next passes through the downturn, prices house prices are moving will fall in absolute terms, as ahead after more than five in the early 1990s. Negative

households are more than a year in mortgage arrears, and nance sector, over-capacity with new mortgage business falling by 50 per cent since 1988; and building society conversion pointing to the struggle for market share cre-

ating greater turbulence.
So what should be done? We have a few suggestions, based on the idea that government should act to change the envi-ronment within which institutions make their decisions -since it is within the power of those institutions to avoid a lot of the problems in the

The first two are examples years ago, and would help to of decreasing the risk to the homebuyer by shifting part of that some lenders will get it to the mortgage lending institutions. The last two are eximples of action to address over-capacity of finance.

TRST, as is common in the United States, government could be a second to the second terms of the second te ernment could limit by law the amount by which mortgage rates can increase in any year. This is not a pro-

culties for the homeowner. Second, it could require lenders to have a continuing obligation for housing those who are repossessed, perhaps for three years from the start of the arrears. This would stimulate lenders to act promptly and work with borrowers to avert and manage arrears, as many councils do with tenants

Third, government should review the regulatory regime to include competitiveness and the customer's interests as well as solvency. This would help to stimulate com-petition given that the average spread (morigage rate charged to borrowers less interest rate paid to savers) is New Policy Institute: 60 Go significantly higher than 10 Road, London SW11 5NR.

into financial difficulties as a result of over-capacity.

Fourth, finance institutions could be encouraged to find cess financing capacity, for example the private rented sector, repair and renewal in the inner city, investment in localities ill-served by con-ventional lenders. The government could offer "stakeholder contracts" to develop new financing lines in return for public support — perhaps tax subsidies or exemptions, or guarantees against losses. Our aim, detailed in a pam-

phlet, Housing Risks and Op-portunities, is to lessen probems in the housing market before they become problems for the social housing sector - and the Exchequer - and to change the environment within which institutions like these make their decisions. Across the whole service sector, this is a principle with wider application.

Dr Kenway is a lecturer in economics at Reading University; Guy Palmer is a management consultant. They are co-founders of the New Policy Institute: 60 Gowrie

for the most seasoned of cynics Worm's eye

Dan Atkinson

PUT cynicism aside for a moment, admit to that child-like feeling of excitement and wonder and say to yourself: it is almost upon us.

That's right - January is not far away. Those of us able to see clearly through the fog of sentimentality and propaganda have long held that the greatest month of the year is the first, not the last. But now we have hard proof, in the form of the quite disgusting consumer blow-out that marked Christmas 1996. As noted here before, the same people who have spent the

October 30th monthly monetary

GER: Prelim CPI Inflation (in

TOMORROW - UK: Whole

world/non-EU trade (Nov).

were leading the charge up Oxford Street at the first hint of Clarkelan largesse. The festival of self-delu-

sion seen during the last formight confirms the obvious fact that the British economy has spent too long in December mode and far too little time embracing the virtues of January. Indeed, a year-round January economy is the essential pre-condition of recovery. From end to end, the much-maligned first month is a model of economic conduct. For a start, January opens with New Year's Day,

a festival marked by bracing walks and conviv-

production (Nov).
JP: Unemployment rate (Nov).

FRIDAY - US: Durable goods

US: Leading indicators (Nov).

FR: Consumer spending (Nov).

orders (Nov).

with the world of work (not a major consideration at Yuletide, in fact not a consideration of any sort).

The weather — usually cited as an objection to January — is key to its admirable nature. Snow, sleet and ice reinforce the mood of hard work and austerity. As, of course, does the strategic level of debt inherited from Christmas.

Because, one undeniable fact — that January follows December — crowns the su-premacy of the January model. It is the purgative nature of the January economy that recommends it so highly as a national model.

past five years moaning sluicing of December. On to and groaning about the Plough Monday, an admirative wage of insecurity" ble occasion connected Kings, celebrating the pre-Kings, celebrating the presentation of Jesus to the world beyond Israel. As a symbol of the breaking down of national and racial barriers, this is a festival quite literally with something for everyone.

Danger looms, however The January of our childhood is under threat. So great are the excesses of Christmas that they threaten to burst their banks. A worrying number of organisations are now holding their "parties" after January 1. The com-mercialisation of Christ-mas was one thing. But the jollification of January is

an unparallelled menace. Those of us who really ial lunches with family and friends, rather than by the grotesque troughing and December in the eye: the fight this all the way.

Tourist rates — bank sells Indicators TODAY - UK: Minutes from WEDNESDAY: Holiday.

Finland 7.67

Australia 2.032 Austria 17.75	France 8.49 Germany 2.53
Belgium 51.92	Greece 403.60
Canada 2.22	Hong Kong 12.57
Cyprus 0.761	India 59.60
Denmark 9,68	Ireland 0.977

Italy 2,502 Malte 0.588 Netherlands 2.83 New Zealand 2,288 Norway 10.52 、 Portugal 255.40

South Africa 7.58 Spain 212.35 Switzerland 2 16 Turkey 171,248 Rough Quest doubtful for the King George VI Chase if ground conditions are considered too firm. Chris Hawkins reports

Casey gets cold feet about Kempton

ERRY Casey has warned that Rough Quest could miss Boxing Day's Pertemps King George VI Chase at Kempton if the ground is

"Provided the going is good he will definitely run, but I'm worried by the weather forecast which says there is going to be frost, wind and very lit-tle rain," said Casey

yesterday.
"Rough Quest came out of his hurdles race at Folkestone in good shape, it was just a nice gallop for him really. But the Cheltenham Gold Cup is his big target and at this stage I wouldn't want to risk him on ground which wasn't right

"He's still in the Rowland Meyrick at Wetherby, but I don't think the forecast is any better there. If he doesn't get a run at Christmas then I'll have to find a race for him Ireland for the Hennessy at Leopardstown in February

Peter McNeile, clerk of the course at Kempton, conproblem: "At present it is rabelow temperatures every night and a frost is forecast

In view of the doubts Hill's have eased Rough Quest to 4-1 from 100-30, with One Man favourite at 4-7, but the most interesting betting move has been for Strong Promise cut from 12-1 to 6-1.

Strong Promise, only a fiveyear-old, is a fast ground specialist and in normal cirlorn hope being rated 50lb in-ferior to One Man.

He is a rapidly improving youngster, having been just touched off by Challenger du Luc in the Murphy's Gold Cup when 191b out of the handicap, but since the incep-

Barton Bank at 10-1 while Algan, who won it two years ago, is a 33-1 chance. This ground which will be all against the French chellenger who is only effective in the

ately hoping that there is no repeat of last year when all 10 The British Horseracing Board, having slready added

fixtures, will today decide whether to sanction two extra



Long jump . . . Ocean Hawk, partnered by Carl Llewellyn, seals victory in the Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot on Saturday with a good jump at the last

Ken, who ran a successful stable near Brackley in

Bailey remains fellow for the big occasion

ITH Norman Williamson quitting the camp amid domestic heaval at Old Manor Stables, Upper Lambourn, it looked as if Kim Bailey. frost on Saturday night and the incumbent trainer, conditions seem bound to could be in for a tough

But Bailey has risen to Both the bookmakers and the challenge and, with 43 shine when appearing to be Levy Board are desper winners worth £232,500 to give the seven-year-old a date, is on course for his shade too much to do when best campaign. He showed a stroke of

genius in replacing Williamson with Conor O'Dwhether to sanction two extra all-weather meetings on Fri-ley runners.

Bailey. "He's an experienced jockey and has made

But O'Dwyer will not be aboard stable star Alderbrook when the former champion hurdler makes a belated reappearance in the dle at Kempton on Friday. Richard Dunwoody has the ride, as he did last season, although he did not
shine when appearing to
give the seven-year-old a
shade too much to do when

"He went nicely on FTAday morning in a workout
and first on the same horse and
following three below-par
shade too much to do when

"He went nicely on FTAand three-quarter miles of
the Welsh National will be
following three below-par
efforts he did not run after

"He went nicely on FTAand three-quarter miles of
the Welsh National will be
following three below-par
efforts he did not run after

"He went nicely on FTAday morning in a workout
and first open horse and
following three below-par
efforts he did not run after

Champion last seas wyer who, although still matically says Collier Bay "I'd like to run him at based in Ireland, has a 30 was "probably the best Kempton and will do proper cent strike rate on Bailhorse on the day." But the y runners.

bookies seem to think that up."

"He's done very well for the boot will be on the Friday is a big day for

are currently quoting Alderbrook at half the olds of Coral Welsh National at

This despite the fact that the alarm bells were ring-ing about Alderbrook when he trod on a stone 10 days ago. Thankfully it was not serious and after two days swimming Alderbrook is pleasing his trainer.

know, he's a very good horse with a top class turn of foot but he must have Bailey does not like to what I call proper jumping criticise jockeys and diplomatically says Collier Bay "I'd like to run him at

"This has been his target all season and I thought he

ran bloody well at Ling field. Pd wanted to get a run, into him earlier but had to wait for the ground. "He's had leg trouble in the past and is not easy to train, but I think the three

Fellow Countryman was originally weighted with originally weighted with
set 51b but with the defection of those at the top of
the handicap it looks as if
he will get into the race
with 10st 61b — a handy
racing weight.

Hailey won the Welsh
National two seasons ago,

s and I'm happy," said ofter foot come March and | Bailey as he also runs Fel- | when it was run at New- | said Bailey. "He really must have soft ground but the objective is the Grand bury, with Master Oats whose runaway success first gave an indication of the Cheltenham glory that was just around the corner. beforehand, maybe the Gold Cup if it were Bailey has been training for 18 years and followed in Cup he went to Aintree with a great chance on the

> the day proved to be his February, although his six anything ever matching it.

book of taking the Grand

National but fast ground on

McCoy go on **Ballistic**

OLLOWING the Hennessy victory of Coome Hill trained by west country farmer Walter Dennis, it was the turn of John O'Shea, another small operator, to win Saturday's big race, the Betterware Chase at Ascot writes Chris Hawkins. It was the biggest win in the Severn, as Go Ballistic battled to get the better of Unguided Missile in a thrilling tussle over the final two fences.

10st and emerged with great credit after a head-to-head with Richard Dunwoody, eventually prevailing by a length and three-quarters. ite, nearly came to grief early

Swinley Bottom but, needing to be held up, really came into his own in the last half-mile. With a pronounced Roman nose, Go Ballistic is not the most handsome of individuals but certainly loves Ascot, which is not to the liking of every horse, and his last three wins have all come on the

'He's a bit of a thinker and takes knowing. I think this course keeps him concentrat-ing," said O'Shee. Storm Alert, another course

specialist, won a humdinger by half a length from Ask Tom in the Frogmore Handi-

cap Chase. Adrian Maguire, something of a forgotten man this season, was seen at his best on the winner who made it four Ascot wins on the bounce and

One way or another McCoy and Dunwoody were involved in the action all afternoon and they had crossed swords earlier in the Book Of Music Novice Chase. This time it was Dunwoody who came out on top as his mount Simply Dashing thwarted the hat-trick bid of Or Royal. This was one of the hottest

and Simply Dashing, trained by Tim Easterby, looks an outstanding prospect. The two and a half miles Cathcart Chase looks to be his Cheltenthough the Arkle is another

option.

McCoy won the Kennel Gate Hurdle on the impre sive Make A Stand and then survived a tragic incident in the Long Walk Hurdle when Blaze Away collansed under him after suffering a heart-

The race went to Ocean Hawk, who best that sessoned campaigner Trainglot by four lengths and has the Stayers Hurdle on his Chaltenham

Kelso card with guide to the latest form

1.16 Meanages Colog: Good. 🖈 Denotes Minkers. 👁 NEEPECTION 7,20ges. Figures in headain after heroe's 1984s decote days after letter IIH setting 12.15 WHITE SWAN NOVICE HURBLE (DIV 1) 201 110706 CEASS 60 MEDIALDI (22) P Che 80 FOLTES AND (20) R Shishs 6-10-12
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personal Die Henzheite and preminent 7th, wentered eiter 4 aus, 351 führ af 25 behind Agusteum (Newcastle 3m cov hdl, Gol.) "YALIAN: Held up, beschary hellway, chance 3 aut. assis wentered, distant stip of 17 behind Robert (Hedaum 2m nov self holl, Gol.) Briss 200711: Hossated rider 3rd in race won by Triennium last week (Musselburgh 2m self heap hdl, Fm). Previocally led to 2 out when 101 4m behind Kilosaterbyra Girl (Musselburgh 2m serys hdl, Fm).

4-3 with SWAN MOVECK WINDLE (OF 2) 2m 110 yels CI
001-618 DEL PRINO (21) (CD) M Nasurand 5-11-6
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Bustings 7-4 Shinorolla, 9-4 Three Wild Days, 7-2 Del Piero, 15-2 Clavering, 14-1 Amber Holly, 20-1 First Ir The Phiol, 28-1 Jahrmid, Desert Lore

PCOPEL CALENDE - THREET WILD DAYS» Cheesel leader, fed 3 out to last, bard ridden, one pace, 61 2nd of 14 behind Tremmunistic (Martes 2m 110y now had, Gd). piEL PUBIC, Tracked leaders, ridden last, soon beaten, 24 6th of 15 behind Dane Point (Kelso 2m 110y now bdl, Gd). Stylenbildoll. De Prominent, chased winner from 2 out, one pase, 71 2nd of 15 belgind bilister Ross, with JALIANIO (rue 86) well bib 8in & CHYTOUS RISK Bereich biled off Bulso 2m filly nor hol, Gd). CLANDINGER bleif Surry in 6 out, publied up belgre 2 out beltind Beggers Banqoet previousia 2nd4 nor hol. 1.15 KIND OLIVER HOVICE CHARE See 15 \$1,810 \$ 50,000 GLIVER NOVICE CHARE SAN 15 CL310
50-1412 SEMECHINE GOLD (123) (CD) J Bercley 7-11-7
50-141 GARRIO'S BOY (7) J Turner 6-11-6
51-621 MONYMOUS (12) (2) IA'S S SAND 7-11-6
52-620 SOLD ACCOUNT (12) G MONE 6-11-6
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1110-04 MAYER O'GRAPY (20) W CHARLOGHER 7-11-6
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50-3422 WINTER BELLE (21) J HOWER J Observe 6-11-6
30 MESS COLETTÉ (12) Mrs D Thomson 6-10-6

gs 3-1 Newymass, 4-1 Cottal Lane, 9-2 Gerbo's Styr, 5-1 Seeking Gold, Winter Beila, 5-1 Bold 4, 14-1 Aylesbury Led, Maybe O'Grady, 20-1 Strangelong (Keino Brid'i hop hot., Gol). SINDICINING GOLDA: Prountiseelde start, left in leget laset, kept an weak to best Warter Gelle (kevoks) St. STRONGALONG (Revoks), in psuch and richten when fall 4 out (Kaleo Smit now ch., Gol).

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Buttlary: 5-2 Meta Mec, 6-2 Cash Box, 5-1 Black lov, 7-1 Latheron, 8-1 Pappa Charlie, 15-1 Hobidis, See More Ghosts, 12-1 Calife Duke, Cheeler, 15-1 Louins

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ettings 2-1 Dear Do, 9-4 Timbuckton, 11-4 Regal Romper, 9-2 One For The Pol CHEN GUEDE - THERENCICTOCK Hefs up, headway 2 out, stayed on well flat, neck 2nd of 5 behind Poli Copyr, yegh REGAL ROMPER (lawels) 71 sersy 2nd & ONE FOR THE POT (nec sib) snother 18,4th (News

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106 3-29-20 - BRIGHST SAPPHREE (8) D Burchelf 10-10-45
107 2-529 LE BAROOK (15) C Benerich 7-14-12
109 328-170 KINDS OF HARYLON (23) (CD) F Jordan 7-10-10
109 10-49-20 - AURON PREMISS (25) CD P 13-10-5
119 409-20 - CELCUS (68) (CD) M Piper 13-10-5
111 4-5-204 TIM VOUR PREMISS (147) A Livers 8-7-1
114 - GS-204 TIM VOUR PREMISS (147) A Cheerbertain 5-0
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117 P-40540 WITE YEST SOLLET (201) A Cheerbertain 5-0-0

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Fig.)

BACKETTS CESCER: Permithesia coding, one-pecal from 2 out, 177 6th behind Str. Plagassit, with
BACKETTS CESCER: Permithesia coding, one-pecal from 2 out, 177 6th behind Str. Plagassit, with
BARBING MERIC No surger, 25 on of 6th behind Also Solt R, with CATVEALUTER (gave 5th) souther 152 has
and LE SARVING (gave 5th) pidded on after 4 out (Chopstow 25th one 9th Rd, 50).

TUG YOURS FORESCOOK Effort approaching 2 out, not passe to challenge, 4th of 10, beaten 731 behind
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lettings 2-1 Rectory Gerden, 6-2 Imperial Visitors, 4-4 Act CK Perfement, 9-2 God Speed You, 8-1 Parl No. 12-1 Herstelown Ledy, 14-1 Pairy Parls, 33-1 Foxonyse

LIM, 12-1 Perfections Ledy, 14-1 Party Park, 33-1 Forgrove

POSSE CHINET. - IMPRESENT, VINTYAGE: Lad Stb., closir when MR leat, ridden out to best sole rivel General Pargo by 41 (Delistokan Zes) now ch. Gol.,
RECTORY GARRISHER PROVISION IT 7 out, will bit 8th behind Henyali Lad (Towcester Smill hosp cb., Gol.,
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ACT OF PARKLABURITY Elect approximating 2 dat, lad rounds, lespt on well, Josef Ret to The Rescue 23
Witnesser 2 and amen't hep cb., Gol.
GEO SPEED TOTA, lattiped ved, stade just about oil, stayed on strongly to heat Droughess 7th (Lindow Sm.
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FAMTY PARTIC Lad or dispused legd to 2 cst, no extra, 42 and of 4 behind Const* Tanasand 8 (Allendow Sm.
sow hosp pt. Gol-Fmil.) This Lead or disputed lead to 2 cut, no extre, 41 2nd of 4 behind Oper's Tenspot & Judiow Sm asset AMT LLBit: Ridden and led approaching 2 cut, soon clear, easily, won by 61 hoer Hizal (Husengdon 2m nov

1993: Callin Glas 6 10 12 D Planegam 9-2 (Neal Y Channes) 13 mm Settings 6-4 Locia Forte, 17-4 (distance), and, 4-1 Maid For Adverture, 6-1 Spiriting Book, 8-1 Di's Last, 14-1 Arioso, 20-1 Doke Note, 33-1 (di Moss Again (Tounton Swif nor hid, Gd-Fo). GALATASORI JAME: Led 2 out until headed and weekened last, 20 8th of 8 behind Term Shidge

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	1986: Have A Minkform G 11 II J F Titley 14-1 (N II V Investor A 44
	Betting: 5-4 Super Coin, 5-2 Who is Equiname, 7-2 Holy Wenderer, 8-1 Eulogy, 18-1 Arabian Sold.

Forms designs— excitoffers to exist from 3 out, over 14 4th behind Surrey Denner, with ARABIAN BOLD (gave 96) polled up before 2 out (Furnique) and relating hdt, Gel-Stt). HOLY TRANSMERS: Ellort 2 out, hit test und rod quickon, El 4th behind The Lanser (Pakenhern äm hop ets, Str. SQ. Superar CORE, Lad 5 cut intit handed and tell it out behind Or Reyal (Compains English nov et., 810). Previously 10 2nd to Or Royal some course (2nr, 510). White of Activitialists Winning funder 2 sections ago; injered has term other treleving last of 6 besind healer (Laisester 2nr heap hot, Gd).

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517445 COMMON BOAD (16) (D) Pt Loo 12-10-0
6370-00 SLAZER MORNINGER (16) P Richard ?-10-3
34422 CHARRIEL PASTREE (32) (CD) D Burchell 12-1

Bettings 2-1 Three Philosophers, 5-1 Too Stars, 7-2 Spinning Steel, 4-1 Callino, 10-1 Cornector, Chance Pastices, 12-1 Comedy Rosel, 20-1 Bisser Moriniere Rife Led 3 out to last, staged on same page, just quar \$1 3rd benind

re, 12-1 Coming rema, 20-1 Beauty morninger I delizate - Thirmize Perio, Copposition Loci 3 out to last, stayled on stance pance, just quer 51 3rd i make (Mortansia: 25m nov ctr, 50). PRAINSE Producer: 12 out, 201 4th of 6 behind. Lettering (Towassier: 2m http://do. Go-60). Makes streams: Sold make, no said place when fell 4th behind Storon Abert (Assot 2m http://d. Gold. In CA-Storon of descript and every chance when fell 4th behind Storon Abert (Assot 2m http://d. Gold. on the

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Blinkered for the first time today: LUDLOW 2.00 Gi Moss.







Bang in form the lightwei
Weekend results
Soccer
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
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Cincinna
West Hans United Middello, Dicks, Bishop, Risper, Rowlard, Porfirlo, Moncar, Navest, Bower, Hughes, Bitle. Subs not used; Lampard, Seeley, Raduslolu, Williamson, Potts. Brieferes A Wilde (Choster-le-Street). Brieferes (0)0 Leeds (0)0
At: 35,954 Evertee Southell, Berrett, Weisen, Short (Unsworth 43), Hincheliffs (Branch 62), Kancholekis, Perkinson, Grent, Speed, Samby, Ferguson, Subs (not used): Gerrerd, Ridsout, Shauf.
Leouts United Müriyn, Kelly, Palther, Padete Linckson 35), Weithreall, Starpe, Flush, Dears, Sowyer, Beanley, Halle Suhe (not used): Weillace, Bearley, Yebcah, Ford. Referenc G R Ashby (Wormstor).
Leleaster (II)O Covering [1]2 Att 20,008 Dublin 12, 72 [1]2 Leleaster City Kniler, Grayson, Kareseris, Hill (Parker 77), Prior, Marstell, Lermon, Issat, Taylor, Claridge, Heekly, Sche (not used): Poole, Watts, Fiobins, Campbell.
Daten, Richardson, Whetar, Dublin, McAllieser, Salako, Teller, Huckerby (Jesa 16), Selm (not used): Sorrows, Boland, Genaux, Flan. Referee F G Stretton (Notlingham).
Mino Utol (2)5 Salskjaer 35, 48 Cantons 43 (sen), 60 Sutt 59 Hepothoster United Schmelchel, 6, Noville,
Butt 69 Repoleopter United Schmelchel, G. Neuffle, Frufri, May, Pullister (MetCleir 45), Cardons, Butt, Gligge (Thornley 65), P. Neville, Scholee, Scholager (Poborsky 54), Buthe (note used): Becklern, Van Der Gouw.
PRINCIPLE NEED, NEEDER, BIRTHER

| April | Company | Compan

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Ali: 2,235
Ali: 2,235
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First Division

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Alt 1,075 Residen ___ (1)1 #Chemetr ___ (0)1 Allord 36 (pen) Doherty 90 (pen) Atr 2,529

Wolding (2)2 Hellier Steens 28, 3 Horafield 58 Lyons 80 (pen)

| Comparison | Com

Referee K Lesch (Violegrampton)
Rugby Union
PELKINGTON CLIP: Fifth rounds Bath 33, Ldn Irish 0; Coventry 79, Kendal 17; Ldn Irish 0; Lords 20; Harlegules 47.
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Wat wildliff 22
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58 MANUAL TT. WOLCOSON MANUAL 11.
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MERC CHT CHALLESSES CHEEN TO BE SHOWN TO THE RESIDENCE CHEEN TO THE

Chelsea 3

West Ham United 1

Hughes

doubles

up but

Zola is

star turn

IANFRANCO ZOLA's ear-to-ear smile dis-arms his sternest crit-ics. And that is before he dons

the boots that can bedazzle the most resolute defence. Since West Ham's rear-

guard emphatically does not fell into that category. Zola could indulge in a perfor-mance to match that grin.

The diminutive Italian rolled out his extensive reper-toire, a stunning goal the cantre-piece of his act. At times sleight of foot appeared an understatement.

So, too, did the praise of Chelsea's player-manager Rund Gullit. "His skills, his

way of playing, stole the hearts of the crowd." Stamford Bridge was entranced on Saturday, alternating be-tween an expectant hush and

an excited roar each time the ball rolled Zola's way.

ish superiority but Zola could not understand all the

fuse. Yet this was a startling improvement from the supine defeat at Sunderland. The

Italian said simply: "Today

we were more a team, 11 players who played on the same

nigher standards. "I could

leading scorer but whose

understanding with Hughes

Gullit appears uncon-

cerned. It's a luxury. Every lem." Harry Redknapp's ears probably burned. "Tm down to two front men," lamented West Ham's crestfallen man-

ager. "Twe got Raducioiu and Newell, who's on loan for a month." And no money to combat a decline that

stretches to nine games with-

Redknapp was equally con-cerned about the sluggishness of Rieper and Bilic in central

defence that permitted Hughes to score with a half-

hit shot after six minutes and

a slow but beautifully direc-ted header in the 35th. Dicks, baited by the crowd,

led by pugnacious example. The captain's header brought

Grodas's only save. But even the indefatigable full-back could not halt Zola as the Ital-

ian beat him on the inside, then the outside, before driv-

ing past Miklosko. West Ham's Porfirio

matched that for execution, if not creation, 60 seconds later

with a fierce shot from just

outside the area. Only 11 min-utes had passed and, if the goal rate slowed, not so Zola's

supply of party pieces. As a youngster he was dubbed "the new Maradona" in Na-

ples. He is now 30. Catch him if you can.

Managerial merry-go-round

has stuttered?

His first win in a Cheises shirt coincided with his first London derby. The home fans revelled in their team's styl-

SOCCER

Premiership: Aston Villa 5, Wimbledon 0

Dons yield unbeaten run in style

IMBLEDON's lon unbeaten record ter of goals at Villa Park yesterday. Having ac-cepted the first from Santa's Grotto, Aston Villa scored four more to go fourth in the Premiership table.

to a frugal diet, this was a rare feast. It was only the second time since the start of the season that Villa had scored three times. On the previous occasion they had lost 4-3 at Newcastle but there was no chance of a simi-

This was Wimbledon's first defeat in 20 league and cup games. It was also their heavi-est since losing 6-1 at Newcastie 14 months earlier. Considering Villa also had three goals disallowed for offside. Joe Kinnear's team could count themselves fortinate to have avoided a repetition of their 7-1 rout at Villa Park

Though ultimately well besten, Wimbledon defended so solidly during the first half-hour that the prospect of their opponents putting five shots on target, let alone scoring five times, looked remote. was so complete that the idea of their drawing level on points with Liverpool at the top became absurd. With both ing over the weekend, Liver-pool can extend their Pre-

miership lead to five points by beating Newcastle at St James' Park tonight. This is the first time in five seasons of Premiership foot-ball that Aston Villa have achieved five successive vic-tories. They ended yester-day's game looking worth their place among the leading pursuers but before scoring they offered a number of

might still be muted. Faced with a packed deglimpses of goal, Brian Lit-tle's team played patience when their passing required more snap. Nelson and Wright were advancing into prepared to allow on the flanks but produced few cen-

Yorke was well marshalled by the Wimbledon centre-



Flying in the face of statistics . . . Ian Taylor heads Aston Villa three up and Wimbledon's unbeaten run of 19 games is beyond salvation

the chilly stalemate. The goal that changed the whole pattern of the proceedigs came seven minutes before half-time and only seconds after Villa had been denied by one of the season's

more aberrant off-side deci-sions; at least three Wimbledon defenders appeared to keep Yorke onside when Taylor played the ball

played the free-kick out to Cunningham on the right, where the full-back attempted a return pass to his goalkeeper but only gave Yorke a clear run through now unpopulated territory to thread s

shot between Sullivan's legs. Four minutes later Villa were further ahead. This time Perry, misjudging the ball in the air, inadvertently backheaded behind his own lines.

vic, who held off the centreback's subsequent challenge to stab a shot past Sullivan. Their plans for contain-ment in disarray, Wimbledon

spent the rest of the match getting more men forward and as a result leaving them-selves increasingly exposed at the back. The alert Yorke, ably supported by Milosevic and Townsend, was now in

from Staunton on the left. Sullivan blocked Milosevic's first-time shot but the ball rebounded to a grateful Taylor at the near post.
With 14 minutes remaining

Milosevic accepted a return pass from Townsend to score his second goal and Villa's fourth with the aid of a deflection off Blackwell. Then in the 85th minute Yorke darted in front of Blackwell to meet a

most stylish finish of the afternoon, an exquisite flick into the far corner of the net. Kinnear described the result as "a blimp". At least the Villa Park crowd had refrained from singing Colonel Bogey.
"If, at the start of the see

son, I'd told people that by Christmas we would have been level with Liverpool at the top if we had besten Aston

control of Milosevic offered | was poetic justice of Tennyso | to cover the danger but | third goal a minute past the | had replaced Draper, and | off to the nuthouse," the Wim-Villa much hope of breaking | nian proportions. Sullivan | missed both ball and Milose | hour after a superb cross | complete the scoring with the | bledon manager argued defistill a point behind us."

fixtures against Arsenal, Manchester United, Newcastle and Liverpool, so Kinness may be right to keep a sense of perspective. But at times yesterday his crazy gang, as

level." Well, up to a point. Disturbingly for future op-ponents, he sets himself

antly. "Now people will be saying what a great side Aston Villa are but they're Villa meet Chelses on Boxing Day and have imminent

of old, must have driven him



Olé, olé . . . Solskiser celebrates his second goel JOHN GLES

have scored more today. I can do better, I can be more effective for the team." Zola's performance was unquestionably enhanced by Mark Hughes's vintage dis-play of builishness and craft. Zola reciprocated in a new partnership that blossomed from the whistle. But where does that leave the injured Vialli, who may be Cheisea's

Manchester United 5, Sunderland 0

Bunch of five fails to impress the doubters

Michael Walker sees United still at odds and is unconvinced by Alex Ferguson who said the 'scoreline speaks for itself'

chester United. The first, loud and dramatic, is that they are a team on the slide who. dangerously, have placed their single egg in a basket marked "Europe". This is the view that says than could have been imagthan could have been imag-ined, especially since Gary Pallister has "gone". Eric Cantona is in terminal de-cline rather than temporary depression, Karel Poborsky is a disaster and as a conse-quence United have been

THERE appear to be two opinions prevailing fore Saturday and a series about the state of Manster United. The first, plays had given holders to this line some ammunition. The differing view is that United are not struggling but cruising. Like a horse travelling easy in the Derby they are content to track the leaders until Tattenham Corner has been turned. According to this "double

handful" argument it was always going to take time to adjust to Bruce's departure. Europe can be forgotten until March and Cantona is sure to rediscover the insujention within Po revealed as a side over-reli-ant on the muscles of Roy borsky can only get better. Keane and the potential of David Beckham. A comparatively meagre haul of nine he plays his return game

Of the recent run, they say, well, United have not lost in six and have winnable games against Not-tingham Forest and Leeds on Thursday and Saturday. These 90 minutes provided evidence to support both opinions. For half an hour United were as mute as their stadiom. If Sunderland were not rampant. they were in control princi-pally because of Butt's anonymity in midfield in com-

parison to Ball's aggression. Cantona was noparison where too, while at the back Pallister and May were un-convincing in the face of Russell's enthusiasm. It was not until Brian Kidd ventured down from

midfield, which enabled United to compete physi-cally with Sunderland's solidity there.

Neville's first task in his new role was to win a tackle

— something neither Butt
nor Scholes had been doing

— and now United had a sounder platform from which to attack. Giggs and Scholes did so, creating goals for Solskjaer and Cantona — a penalty that broke his three month spell without a League goal. And, when Solskjaer added a third two minutes after halftime United were flowing. However, it had taken some time and Peter Reid

the stand to launch a tirade of orders that the disorientation was dispelled.

Essential to this was the switching of Gary Neville from wide on the right into middled which excelled. spark would come.

"Goals change games. though," said Reid and when Butt crashed in a header near the hour, United had scored four in 22 minutes. There was a final flourish to come fro Cantona, chipping in a fifth elegantly off a post, giving

minutes United could not have beaten Brighton. Afterwards Alex Ferguson said he was having a Christmas break from speaking to the press. He then added: "The scoreline was correct to say that the then added: "The scoreline first goal was "out of the speaks for itself." Does it?

Leicester City 0, Coventry City 2

Dublin's fair switch

Jeremy Alexander

HE Coventry chairman Bryan Richardson be-lieves Gordon Strachan will "take us on to the good times". He thought it before they beat Newcastle, their first victory in more than a other on Saturday, their first away this season, supports the confidence. Club and team spirit were clearly high. No one assaulted a team-mate.

Richardson attributes it to Strachan's oratory. "People who had been going to the agm for 20 years were saying Gordon's speech [he got a standing ovation] was the best they had heard from a manager because he was so honest," he said on Friday. Honesty is apparently as rare

at Coventry as logic. Most managers have faced the problem of the proven goal scorer who dries up. Attraining the ball continues to fly in from all angles and distances. In play it is scuffed, deflected, sliced or, when perfectly struck, brilliantly second thoughts; and hesita-

has persevered with Cantona; on Saturday Cantona scored his first Premiership goal for 97 days. At Forest Pearce moved Saunders to a Stone role; Saunders set up the equaliser. Strachan took Dub-lin out of the firing line into central defence; the Leicesterborn man headed both goals, having got four in 15 league games up front. Dublin's fair city is a lighter blue now.

His was a doubly matchwinning performance. Between the goals he twice rescued Coventry - once from his own mistake --- when Hes man time to steady himself.

"Whatever box he's in," said
Strachan of Dublin, "the ball
seems to be attracted to him."

For both goals the her. For both goals the ball seemed to repel the home de-fence. Both were set-piece deliveries by the captain McAllister, who used to play for Leicester. They paid the price

Leicester. They paid the price of history and reverle.

Heskey needs a rest that Leicester do not have the Leeds on Boxing Day. The of history and reverie. reserves to allow him. He has been an under-all-ages inter-national. "I'm told the fort-

tion contradicts instinct. night since our last match is
At Old Trafford Ferguson has persevered with Cantona; on Saturday Cantona scored sald. And Heskey is only 18. O'Neill lamented a lack of left feet. A lack of heads was more to the point. And, when Marshall, in defence, showed his in attack, Ogrizovic saved athletically. Shilton gives a 39-year-old no alternative. The manager was marking a year in office. Promotion and 13th place surpass expectations but the survival job is not

half done. They need to win the six-pointers. After Antield on Thursday they face another, at home to Forest. Coventry, well organised in from their own half on to long passes of the sort that McAllister specialises in. Whelan, with three goals from 17 games, raissed two sitters in the last quarter-hour. If Stratum of the last quarter-hour.

manager and captain would enjoy that, though logic de-

crees a goalless draw.

Everton 0, Leeds United 0

Deane posts late for Leeds

LL but the most naive football managers emunderstatement, and that made Joe Royle's almost painful honesty all the more refreshing. "I have seen worse games but, yes, it was dour," he said, making no attempt to convince anyone that a sow's ear had resembled a slik purse. The hardy souls who follow eeds United have also seen worse games — plenty of late, in fact — but, significantly, their faith has at least been partially restored. A sixth clean sheet in seven games had provided further proof league games this season.

that their team can, after all, defend with robust efficiency. Leeds score infrequently but until such time as George Graham starts to look for-ward with optimism rather than gazing backwards in fear, that will remain some-

thing of an irrelevance.
Indeed, they would have won with something to spare had Brian Deane not spent the entire afternoon trying to play himself out of a Job. As he was missing a succession of relatively simple chances, Tony Yeboah sat a few yards away, restored to full health and bemused at his failure to win an immediate recall to a team with 15 goals in 18

Stanic sours Sacchi's return

since returning to AC Milan Mario Stanic's first-

ARRIGO SACCHI, the for-mer Italy coach, has suf-fered his first league defeat two Vincenzo Montella With Vicenza falling to two Vincenzo Montella goals at Sampdoria and Inter held 1-1 at bottom ofhalf header gave Parma a the table Reggiana, the 1-0 victory at the San Siro league leaders Juventus yesterday.

The champions' fifth defeat of the season leaves held 1-1 at Piacenza.

"To be honest, I was neve tempted to put Tony on," said Graham. "We have been doing well and, if a side is playing with confidence, then the players stay in. It is then up to those others on the outside to try and force their way in." Yeboah could do just that

against Covenity on Boxing Day, for even the unswerv-ingly loyal Graham may find it difficult to stand by Deane after a late miss which would have made a schoolboy striker

Barely two minutes remained when Unsworth's clumsy clearance landed at the feet of Rush inside the Everton penalty area. Rush snatched at the chance but rarely has a mis-hit shot proved so fortnitons. It rolled in front of Deane, arriving fast at the back post, one yard from goal. He could not miss, but did. His shot struck the

For Everton, Royle was nolonger talking championships, just common sense. "All the stars were defenders today." he conceded. "It looked like it was going to be tight from the first minute; it almost seemed destined to end goalless."

hits top speed in Scotland

F the Department of Employment in Scotland opened a JobCentre for footopened a JobCentre for foot-ball managers, it would need a revolving door. The past 48 hours have brought the number of managerial changes to 16 with the season not yet at the halfway stage.

Nowhere was the turnover quicker than at Falkirk, the First Division club who installed Alex Totten less than 24 hours after Eamonn Bannon's departure. Bannon was blamed for fielding an ineligible player in a league match and attracting a £25,000 fine his club could Ill afford.

Totten, himself dismissed by Kimarnock just over a fortnight previously, declined an offer to coach in Hong Kong in order to rejoin the club he managed for a year in 1982-83.

The recently elected Kilmarnock board, chaired by

marnock pogru, cnaired by the former player Ronnie Hamilton, had talks yesterday with Alex MacDonald of Air-drie. No business was con-cluded but MacDonald's departure would create another vacancy, with Bannon, Billy United Their go by the midfielde nell, returning out with injury.

among the likely contenders.
Hibernian, meanwhile,
have gone through 11
matches with Jocky Scott as
caretaker since the removal.
of Alox Millor, the of Alex Miller, now assistant to Gordon Strachan at Coven-try. Scott would like his status clarified "sooner rather than later" and his prospects surely improved with the 3-0 win at Raith Rovers which took the Easter Road side into fifth place in

the Premier Division. They now lead their Edinburgh neighbours Hearts, whose 4-1 mauling by Rangers at Tynecastle was their seventh game without a

victory.

That result kept Rangers 14
points ahead of Celtic, who have three matches in hand. It also heralded the return to form of Paul Gascoigna. The England midfielder simply took charge of the match and scored a goal, Rangers fourth, of peerless quality.

Ceitic, without the injured van Hooydonk and McNamara as well as the suspended di Canio, ended a fortnight of idleness with a 1-0 home win over the improving Dundee United. Their goal was scored by the midfielder Phil O'Don-nell, returning after months

ماكنا س الاعل

SOCCER



. . Wright is sent off despite apology to Jerkan Premiership: Notim Forest 2, Arsenal 1

Pearce's punchline arrives by proxy

Richard Williams

gesture worthy of the last man but one to occupy the manager's office at Nottingham Forest, Stuart Pearce sent a back room boy to talk to reporters after his team had marked his first match in charge with their first Premiership victory since the opening day of

"My name is Alan Hill," said the middle-aged man in the blazer and tie, "and I've been here for 28 years." In fact, Hill arrived as a reserve goalkeeper during another difficult period in the club's history and stayed on through the Clough years to become general manager under Frank Clark. His task after Saturday's match was to relay the reaction to an emotional afternoon of the man who is both Forest's longserving captain and their new

caretaker player-manager.

"The skipper asked me if I'd
be seeing the gaffer," Hill said.
"I said I would be. He said, ense we owed him one. touching tribute, although cynic might be moved to ask why it took the resignation of Frank Clark to remind his players of their debt to a decent and honest man, liked and

respected by all. Yet there was no question of rift between the manager and the players; simply a feeling that Clark's quiet, reflec-tive manner had ceased to provide sufficient motivation. He had telephoned each player individually the day before the match to wish them luck and the fans, too, will remember his 31/2 years in charge at the City Ground as a period in which the club successfully emerged from the troubled closure of the Clough era, enjoying a return to the top flight and a mod-estly successful reacquaint-ance with competition in

It was Clark's failure to

Forest their momentum, and the injury to Steve Stone another mortal blow. A sense of depression settled over the club which the manager could do nothing to shift. "The reason Frank resigned was that he thought he'd done everything he could," Hill ex-plained. "Stuart's influence in the dressing-room and on the pitch gave them the little bit that Frank couldn't get out

Behind his repertoire of scowls and pugnacious gestures, Pearce may also turn out to be a thoughtful tactician. For the visit of Arsenal he pulled a pair of surprises by restoring the out-of-favour Bryan Roy, giving him his favourite role as the "shadow striker" behind Kevin Campbell, and deploying Dean Saunders as a right wing-back. Des Lyttle, David Phillips and Scot Gemmill were relegated to substitutes, where they were joined by Nigel Clough, signed on a month's loan from Manchester City and returning to the first-team career a dozen

tute for the fifth Roy, Clough demonstrated that he has gained nothing in pace during his unhappy sojourns at An field and Maine Road. The man he replaced suffered badly from the direct comparison with his former Ajax and Holland team-mate Dennis Bergkamp, who returned from injury and international duty to give a wonderfully composed and inventive performance until he was removed as a precaution after

years ago.

By then he had lost his striking partner Ian Wright, who had given Arsenal the lead after 64 minutes when he pounced on a loose ball after Mark Crossley had dropped an inswinging cross and hambut was sent off seven min-



High jinks . . . Haaland's winning goal saw him rise to the occasion of Pearce's first game in charge PHOTOGRAPHS: MARK LEECH

down the Croatian defender's shin. Arsene Wenger, of course, did not see the of-fence; some managerial habits are international.

In between the goal and the dismissal, Forest had equal-ised when Saunders made a dazzling run down the right, beating Nigel Winterburn and David Platt to deliver a cross which was turned past John replace Stan Collymore and utes later after attempting to Lukic by Alf-Inge Healand's

take quiet retaliation for a second Nikola Jerkan body-check by scraping his stude almost produced a goal for the disappointing Campbell, who failed to make proper contact, but the winner came a minute from time when the former Arsenal man nudged Pearce's through ball into the path of Haaland, who took it across the face of the goal before shooting just inside the rightband post. "Alfie was an in-spiration," Hill said of the

for the last three games."

Arsenal, lacking Seaman, vance quite outshining Platt's Adams, Dixon and Vieira, negligible contribution. were not up to their recent collective form, although Wenger was pleased by the debut of Remi Garde, his second Frenchman, who quickly found his legs in midfield.

Formerly of Strasbourg. Garde cannot boast the fluency or vision of the suspended Vieira but he looks a better class of journeyman Norwegian. "As he has been

If this was not the match on

which to judge their champi-onship potential, nor was it the right day to proclaim the Forest renaissance. "The mood in the dressing-room is that we've won a football match," the faithful Hill reported, "and that's all." But now that the gaffer and the skipper are wearing the same shirt, the players may find it than Arsenal are used to, his easier to decide for whom industry and all-round rele- they are actually "doing it".

Tottenham 1, Sheffield Wednesday 1

Spartan Spurs have little of the glory, glory look

Commentary formation scene are being of fered a stronger safety

David Lacey

T IS easy to see why Tot-tenham Hotspur's support-ers feel disgruntled these days. Efficiency in a foot-ball team may be healthy but Spurs fans reared on Hoddle, Waddle, Gascoigne and Klins-mann expect something more mann expect something more

Saturday's 1-1 draw with David Pleat's revived Shef-field Wednesday team was greeted by booing which sounded weary rather than angry. Once Nielsen had equalised in the 28th minute, Nolan having given Wednesday the lead in the 16th, the outcome was as predictable as socks at Christmas.

True, Sheringham did bit a post a little later but even this might have been expected Tottenham's manager Gerry Francis said it was the eighth time in three matches that Spurs had struck the woodwork, yet he insisted that, given the inconsistencies of most of the teams above them, the season was still full of possibilities.

Then again, Tottenham fams could be forgiven for fearing their season will subside after Spurs have visited Manchester United in the third round of the FA Cup on Sunday week So far Spurs Sunday week. So far Spurs have been all pars and no birdies — 18 matches played, 18 goals scored, 18 conceded.
Watching the Tottenham of
Ossie Ardiles was like looking at a team of Blondins crossing Niagara Falls, except that Blondin had a better sense of balance. Francis's pe destrian Tottenham side prefers the footbridge to the

tight-rope.
Their supporters' criticisms were originally aimed at the chairman Alan Sugar and his reluctance to buy for-Steffen Iversen, signed from Rosenborg for £2.7million, Francis is more of a target for the fans' displeasure.

He is said to lack imagination, hardly a well-founded charge remembering his days as the fulcrum of a forwardthinking Queens Park missed the championship in the mid-Seventies. But as a nanager, both at QPR and Tottenham, he has never allowed romance to run

Having signed a forward. Iversen, he snapped up a workaday centre-back, Liverpool's John Scales, from Now Spurs are being linked zerland's Ramon Vega, at present with Cagliari.

Francis is clearly a stage manager rather than an artis-tic director. Tottenham fol-

proved by Saturday's evidence that Pleat, along with his fellow former Spurs manager Peter Shreeves, has in-stilled into Sheffield Wednesday the quick, instinctive passing and movement which Francis, for the time being,

appears to have forsaken.
Pembridge, Carbone, Whit-tingham and Trustfull played the ball short, sweet and swiftly, whereas Tottenham preferred to find Sheringham with long, high stuff from the back. Tversen, who can de-stroy defences when the ball is played to his feet, spent much of this game straining to reach it in the air.

The goals typified the team styles. Nolan, always strong on the left for Wednes scored with a precise drive in-side the near post after Pembridge, reacting quickly to a rebound, had laid the ball into his path. Nielsen's equalportunism after Iversen had reached a lob from Sher-

ingham who, with his back to goal, had hooked the ball to the far post.

With Walker in defence and Nicol in midfield, Sheffield Wednesday resembled a Semprini sevenade — old ones. prini serenade — old ones. new ones, loved ones, neglected ones. But generally they were more enterprising than Spurs and would not have been flattered by the victory which a shot from Blinker, one of the substitutes, nearly secured four minutes from the end.

It was clear that Pleat did ham team much resemblance to the side he had taken to an FA Cup final nine years ear-lier. "All we had to defend well today were Nielsen's long throws," he said. "Some bloke behind me said he couldn't see the game. I said

Look up!"." tic view of Saturday's events But for Pressman's agility, Nielsen's through-ball to Iverham in with a 2-1 lead at halftime, and Sheringham was

denied a goal by that post. Yet Pleat's barbed aside that "Howells would be a good player in a good team' will reverberate among Spurs fans impatient for something to happen at White Hart Lane apart from the books being balanced on and off the field.

Sugar is not going to do a Ninotchka, lecture everyone on sound economics before dropping a fortune on an outrageous piece of foreign fri-volity, Asprilla being the foot-balling equivalent of Garbo's Parisian hat. But it may take more than a blond Norwegian prodigy to convince White Hart Lane that, even when Anderton and Armstrong are fit, Spurs will be anything lowers desperate for a trans- other than fair-to-middling.

Southampton 3, Derby County 1

Derby plan laid low by virus

Pat Symes

plai mem

approximately the

ELEGATION is not a word managers as expe-rienced as Graeme Souness and Jim Smith utter publicly in the week before Christmas but the significance of the occasion was not lost on them. Premiership survival is the

limit of their ambitions at this juncture and not even Smith's chirpy post-match appraisal could conceal his disappointment at the failure to emerge from The Dell with at least a face-saving point.
"Our worst performance of

the season" was Smith's description and it was certainly hard to understand how his Derby side had come so close to beating Arsenal and had lost only two away matches.

Smith's strategy was to be based on unleashing the pace of his leading scorer Dean Sturridge but flu struck overnight to deprive him not only of Sturridge but also of the in-fluence of McGrath in defence while Laursen succumbed to the virus at half-time.

Asanovic, normally a potent force in midfield, was pushed forward to replace Sturridge but it did not work; he laboured and was taken off in the 73rd minute. "He's used to being substituted." said Smith. "but not as early as that." Derby missed Sturridge

more than Southampton get is a ball-winning interna-missed Matthew Le Tissier,

whose absence with a thigh in-jury precipitated a run of five successive league defests in the wake of their 6-3 demoli-tion of Manchester United.

Eyal Berkovic, the busy and skilful Israeli international, took over Le Tissier's role and relished the extra space to prod away at a Derby defence shorn of McGrath's stability. Berkovic was at the heart of all Southampton's most penetrat-ing moves and Le Tissier's absence was hardly noticed.

One staggering statistic to emerge as they won only their fourth Premiership match under Souness was that, until Saturday, Southampton had not won a league match in Le Tissier's absence since April,

Christian Dallly's early goal misled Smith into believing Derby would take control. Rees from Gordon Watson and Matthew Oakley soon broke that Illusion with Smith blaming his goalkeeper Russell Hoult on both occasions.

The Derby manager had no complaint, however, about the award of an injury-time penalty after Hughes had been sandwiched. Yet, had Hoult stood still, he might have saved Jim Magilton's traight-in unconvincing straight-in spot-kick. Meanwhile Souness admit-

ted to plans to add to his for-

eign contingent but would go only as far as saying his tar-

Boro defend decision to call off match

THE Middlesbrough chairman Steve Gibson yesterday insisted the club had "a genuine case" in answer to criticism of their decision to call off Saturday Premiership match at Blackburn.

The match was postponed on Friday when Middles-brough informed the Premier League they could not field a team that would do justice to the club and pay-ing public, claiming they had 23 players injured or ill. Gibson said: "It is a genuine case. If it comes to an inquiry we will tell the truth. We will tell the league of our problems. It is not unknown for teams

to call games off."

Southampton have denied reports that a consor tium headed by the broad caster Sir David Frost is about to buy a major stake in the Premiership club with a view to buying new players and financing a new £40 million stadium. Sir David, who once had trials for Nottingham Forest, said: "It is not a takeover bid. It is purely an

offer of assistance. But Southampton's chairman Guy Askham denied a link with the consortium. The club earlier this month announced plans to merge with the Bristol-based property and healthcare company Secure Retirement. Askham said: "This has come totally out of the blue and we have had no contact with Sir David Frost. The situation with Secure Retirements is irrevocable."

First Division: Swindon Town 2, Bolton Wanderers 2

McGinlay's goal answers barrackers

Trevor Haylett

BITTER wind cut into this corner of Wiltshire yesterday and threat-ened to turn Bolton's blip into a full-blown crists. Swindon twice held the lead and con-trolled more of the game than was comfortable for a visiting side who have spent most of the season at the summit of the First Division.

So Barnsley will spend leaders. Afterwards Colin own in that calculation was fans who had not forgotten not entirely clear.

However, it was readily approximately clear in an ugly clash with Robinson two seasons ago.

Robinson two seasons ago.

But then they cannot expect to but they cannot expect to However, it was readily ap-parent that the Bolton manager did not rate this perfor-mance. "We had no tempo or movement in the first half," said Todd. "After half-time we were more like ourselves but I demand better."

goal which cost them their unbeaten home record the previous weekend, Bolton left their second equaliser at the County Ground until five minutes from time. A nudge

Robinson two seasons ago. Had Bolton then taken that one step further it would have been an injustice, though there was the closest of calls when Green, the substitute were more like ourselves but demand better." who had brought them parity first time, turned the ball over the line only for his

rejoicing to be cut short. Tele-vision replays showed him straying offside just as it was laid across. Bolton's swagger of autumn has deserted them. They have Todd described them as the division's best team, though less a triumph for McGinlay whether he was including his who was taunted by Swindon a league win since early No-cle at the same time and degive Swindon a 2-1 lead.

face Tottenham every week. Swindon, better than their morning position of 16th had suggested, lacked the touch-line rallying of their manager Steve McMahon, who was missing because of family illness. But they set about Bolton with vigour and were rewarded with a marvellous

goal just past the half-hour. When the ball spilled from a midfield challenge, Walters strode forward and lifted his At that stage Bolton were

penalty areas but the interval gave Todd the chance to put things right. Thirteen min-utes later Blake worked his space skilfully before driving the ball across goal, where it struck Green and diverted into the net.

Blake again produced the 18th goal of the season. That came after Allison, fed by Watson, had muscled his way through in the 74th minute to

Sheffield United 0, Barnsley 1

Hendrie enjoys more of the popular vote as Wilson's men go to the top

Paul Fitzpatrick

ECHN HENDRIE might not possess football's most instantly recognisable face but, if he had stood as a candidate in the recent by-election in Barnsley, his opponents would have lost their deposits.

His popularity has mounted steadily since his £250,000 move in October from Middlesbrough. It reached new heights when his well-taken goal, his sixth in his last 10 games, settled this argument five minutes from time and took Barnsley to the top of the

Four times previously Hen-

dlesbrough. He is 33 now, has banished any thoughts he may have harboured of appearing for Scotland, and might have imagined his Premiership days were over too. Twice in the distant past Barnsley finished third in the old Second Division, a modest

no way, says Hendrie, that he felt he was coming to a deadend club when he moved to Oakwell There still seems something faintly unreal about their current exalted position but their challenge shows no signs of waning. Hendrie stresses that

enough record, but there was

year-old whose playing days are not that far behind him. "He knows all the tricks," says Hendrie of a man who amassed a wealth of playing experience with Bury, Chesterfield, Nottingham Forest, Scunthorpe, Brighton, Luton, Sheffield Wednesday and the

club he now manages. "He is very much on the same wave-length as the players," Hen-

Wilson's achievement has drie has played in promoted it is still mid-winter but they been to assemble a team at | day's home game with Old- a contest goes on.

playing for each other within a simple but effective pattern. If Hendrie can do no wrong in the eyes of the Barnsley There are no obvious superpublic neither can the club's stars - though Dave Watson. manager Danny Wilson, an articulate and personable 36their young goalkeeper, could be one in the making.

His work throughout was faultless and there was nothing better than the save he made from the Russian for-ward Petr Katchouro, whose 55-yard run would have ended in a goal but for Watson's ath-leticism and alertness.

The crowd of 24,384 was United's biggest of the season and illustrated the potential

sides, with Bradford City, will be there or thereabouts | modest cost and get them all | ham for, although this result Leeds and twice with Mid- come spring. | playing for each other within | was a disappointment was a disappointment — United would have gone top if they had won - there was little to criticise.

Don Hutchison returned after suspension and was arguably the game's outstanding player but United are cur-rently missing a clutch of first-team men and, in view of that, were unlucky not to take at least a point.

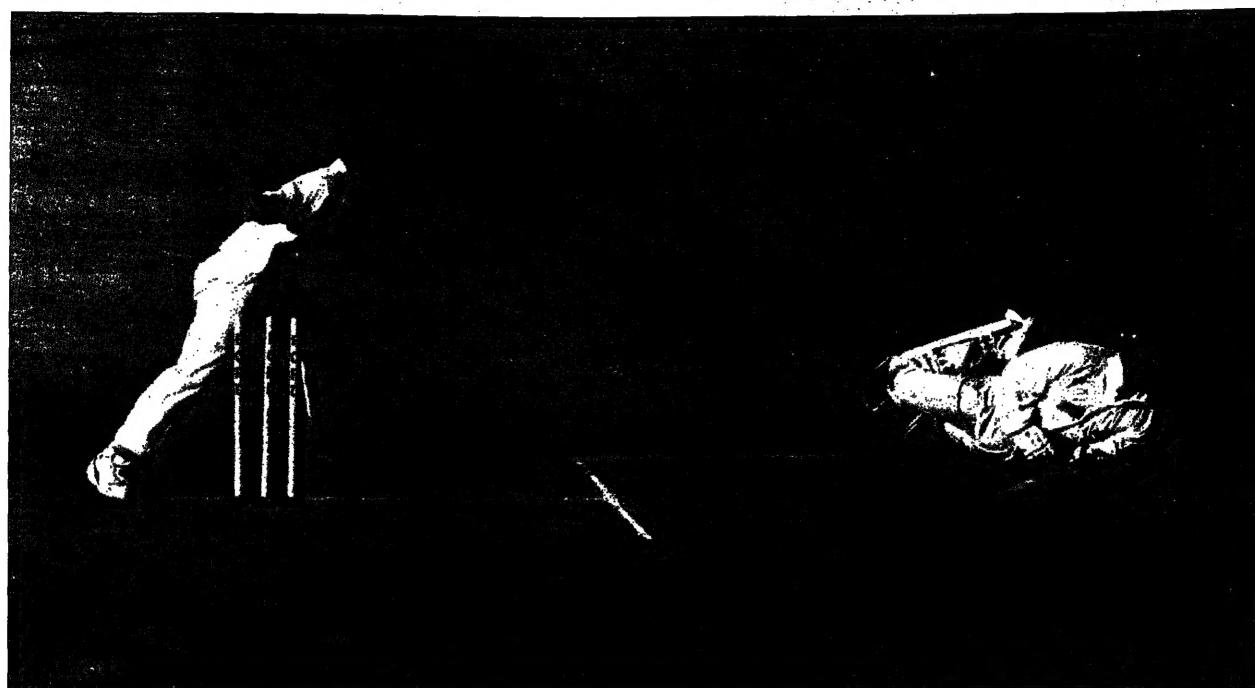
But Barnsley, obliged to rearrange their forces when they lost their influential captain Neil Redfearn after only 20 minutes with a tweaked of this ambitious club. They will be hoping most of their fans will return for Satur-

Five pages of sport

Sled racing Frank Keating ioins the Forest of Dean mushers Soccer Five-goal Villa put paid to Wimbledon 14

TEST CRICKET

Wide boys anger England



Desperate finish . . . Darren Gough just gets home during the last dramatic over as Zimbabwe's pace bowler Heath Streak whips off the bails at the Queen's Chub ground yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE MASON

Set by Chifonie

All square as Zimbabwe survive last-ball drama

David Hopps in Bulawayo

MINGLAND visit Victoria Falls today and it will be a wonder if no one throws himself off the edge. Never has a side come closer to winning a Test match with-out actually doing so but mention that by way of consola-tion and the response is one

"We murdered 'em, we flip-ping murdered 'em," said David Lloyd, England's coach, and he knew that changed nothing. For the first time in Test cricket the score book entry reads: "Match drawn with scores level."
England, boldly chasing 206

for victory in 37 overs, men-tally won the match a thousand times but finished deeply frustrated on 204 for

Zimbabwe might be Test novices but never again will they be termed Test innocents. The negative bowling tactics they shamelessly employed throughout the final undesirable.

Thirteen were needed from bowled well wide of the streak's final over and, when stumps without penalty, were Knight thrashed his third ball longed tactical contest to keep diving Croft at extra-cover.

One ball, in particular, sticks in the craw. The um-

pire Ian Robinson had an em-barrassing match and his de-cision to judge the fourth ball of the final over as acceptable ranks as one of the most outrageous abdications of res-ponsibility in Test history.

Heath Streak fired it so wide outside Nick Knight's off-stump that the left-hander, named Man of the Match for his 96 from 118 balls, would not have reached it with an extension. The two tied Tests were essentially joyous affairs, with both sides able to celebrate an

equal share of a special England, arguably as the only possible victors, came even closer to winning yester-

Versace to dress up a draw and it would still seem just as

lagitimate enough but they over deep-equare for six, Engwill deeply offend all those who extol the game's spirit. next ball passed by out of reach and Knight drove the

fifth to long off for two runs. With three required from Streak to the cover boundary. "I middled it and thought it had a chance," he said, but Stuart Carlisle's throw helped

run out Knight. This was not the classiest Test ever played — the seam bowling on both sides was too climax on this intimate Queen's Club ground was

compelling.

For Geoffrey Boycott to complain on BBC Radio that it was not proper Test cricket, that the bowling was too easy, that England were winning at a canter, not only proved to be inaccurate, but over-em-

day but there was no similar phasised quality at the exsense of excitement, fust an excruciating recognition that success had eluded them. Ask lost to rain on the second day. phasised quality at the ex-pense of sensation. England rued the two hours Others, less fairly, concen-trated on the time lost on the

the strike. More persussively they simply did not take Zimbabwe's last five wickets quickly enough yesterday.

Zimbabwe, 107 for five overnight, led by 77 and looked the five Fredrick's grounds.

ripe for England's spinners, but they resisted until half an hour before tea and were within minutes of making a draw inevitable. The nightwatchman Bryan Strang was soon dismissed as he tried to strike Tufnell down the ground but adventurous half-centuries from Waller and Whittall carried the fight

impressively. Lloyd's irksome reference to "getting 15 of them out" was that of a man who felt 18 that England's spinners had been refused several valid claims for bat-and-pad catches. Crawley's catch off Croft's bowling looked particularly persuasive but Paul Strang added only another single before falling to the same combination.

England, who appealed in-discriminately and in an impassioned manner that on Saturday brought a repri-mand from the match referee Hanumant Singh, should conproach is counter-productive Waller was eventually removed by Gough's lifter, al-though his later new-ball spell was so unimpressive that it lasted only one over. Four wickets for Tufnell in-cluded Whittall, caught by the

Guardian Crossword No 20,843

out of trial and fine (6,5)

<u>Across</u> 1 Wager some liquid is setting

5 Computer program reversing trend to Operations Research (6)

adopted by child (4,2) 12 It's trendy for convict to get

9 Spilt ale, to wet cloth (3,5) 10 Don displays impertinence 15 Steel found in commoner

17 John catches fish for Duke 18 The winger's distance from the line (4'1-4)

bird (5) 20 Doctor's to give up one treatment, initially, for

19 Grieve the loss of beheaded

This week's winners of a Collins Roget's International Thesaurus are Alistair H Kell of Edinburgh, Mr W G. Goss of Harrow, Middlesex, Pete and Jean Miller of Leicester, D Compton of Frome, Somerset, and D E Brittenden of Westerhern, Kent.

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24 Utter mastery is required to guzzle spread (6)

28 Wobble in pet's rotten tooth 28 A ballad about the mother country (6)

27 Forces Georgia to be accepted by new partners -

Down 1 Impudence following courage may cause a delay

.2 Windbag caught milliner on TV (10) 3 Refuse to admit large

physicians (5) 4 Patent axe (wicked sort) improved (4,3,5) 6 Continental stagecoach industry (9)

having a pointed end (8) 11 Blithe characters taken in by especially fine evangelist (5,7)

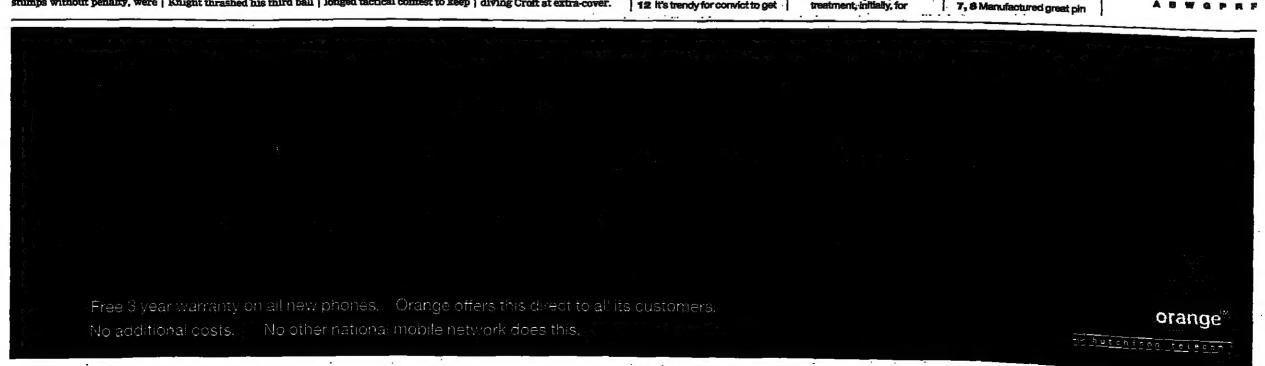
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lar dar

13 Uncovered bet about old vessel reaching pole (5-5) 14 Colleges in beastly abodes gather expression of reproach (10)

16 Yesi Yeoman contrived to make unearned income (4,5) 21 Lash the host after king departed (5) 22,23 Bachelor (student) gets

lesson in royal retreat (8)



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